

THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**CAMPAIGN**  
IN  
**FLANDERS,**

In the Year 1708. *K*

CONTAINING;  
A Faithful and Exact Account of all the most Ma-  
terial Actions that were transacted there.

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To which is Prefix'd,  
A Map of *LILLE*, and the Ad-  
jacent Countries.

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*L O N D O N :*

Printed, And Sold by *A. Baldwin*, in  
*Warwick-lane*, 1709.

T H E  
B O O K S E L L E R  
T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

**T**H<sup>O</sup> the Gentleman that was the Author of the ensuing History, was an Eye-witness of most of the Transactions he has related, yet it can't be expected that he, or any other Person in the Army could be present at every Action in a Campaign which produc'd so many surprizing and various Events; yet where his own Knowledge was insufficient to inform others, he had recourse to the Secretaries of some General Officers, and to the best printed Relations, either in *Dutch* or *English*. Whatever Judicious Reader will take the Pains to examine the whole Work, must be so Candid as to acknowledge he has inserted several Particulars omitted by the Publick Writers, contradicted other Passages, where the Truth and Fact gave him a just warrant so to do, corrected some Mistakes, and connected the whole in such a manner, as the Sense is neither broken nor interrupted, but each Action introduces the other, and the private Springs and Reasons which oblig'd the Enemies and our Generals to act as they did, are discover'd, and set in open view. Some Originals the Author has inserted, where he judg'd the same very material, and brought some Councils and Intrigues to light, which before we were unacquainted with: But as for the General's Letters just after the taking a Town, or a Victory, he has purposely omitted them, because 'tis evident, those Letters are writ in a hurry, and immediately after an Action is over, so that a just Account can be hardly given so soon as such Expresses are usually sent away; and 'tis the lame Post only that brings along with it Truth and Certainty. These Arguments oblig'd him to neglect those Letters, and he hopes the Care he has taken thro' the connexion of the whole History, will be favourably receiv'd, and conduce to the Publick Satisfaction.



T H E



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# T H E

# INTRODUCTION.

**A**FTER the Death of King William, Her Majesty began her Reign; and from the early Successes that attended her Arms, gave her Subjects sure Presages of the Happiness they were fated to enjoy, under the Influence of Her Auspicious Government.

The Crown was but just plac'd on her Head, when her Arms, in Conjunction with those of the Allies, reduc'd several Places of Importance in Flanders; and were Victorious over the Spaniards, at the Memorable Action of Vigo.

Nor did the Progress of Her Majesty's Successes stop here; his Grace the Duke of Marlborough reliev'd the lazy Germans, beat the Marshals Tallard and Villeroy, in two set Battles; and the Fights of Hockstet and Ramellies, sufficiently reveng'd the English Troops that fell at Steinkirk and Landen.

Victory every where declared in her Majesty's Favour, excepting at Almanza; and the French found that their Empire must a second time submit to the Arms of Great Britain.

They were sensible by the Experience of this present War, that England was not only able to hold the Ballance of Europe.

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Europe, but could also turn it in favour of the House of Austria or Bourbon, according as these Realms should take into the Interest of either of those Families. They were also appriz'd, that the late Conjunction of England and Scotland, was another terrible Blow to the Grandeur of France. The Cementing of those two Kingdoms, and their mutual Fortunes in a most sacred and inseparable Union; the one most redoubtable for Riches, Trade and a Navigable Power; the other formidable for vast numbers of Warlike People, gave them dreadful Apprehensions of the Future, and plainly convinc'd their unprejudic'd States-men, that the Fate of the Empire of France was at hand; and now for a Punishment for his infinite Perjuries, Ravages and Murders, the Hoary Hairs of their Aged Monarch must set with Sorrow in the Grave.

To prevent so great Misfortunes, the French took all imaginable Precaution, and form'd all the Projects that Reason could suggest, or Politicians invent. At last their Councils determin'd, their only way to weaken us Abroad, was by embarrassing our Affairs at Home, and raising a Civil War in these Nations. To effect this, the Pretended Prince of Wales and the Marshal de Matignon, with a numerous Fleet and several Battalions, sailed for the Coast of Scotland, with an intent to land there; but Sir George Bing, with her Majesty's Fleet under his Command, prevented their Designs, and their Projects vanished into Air.

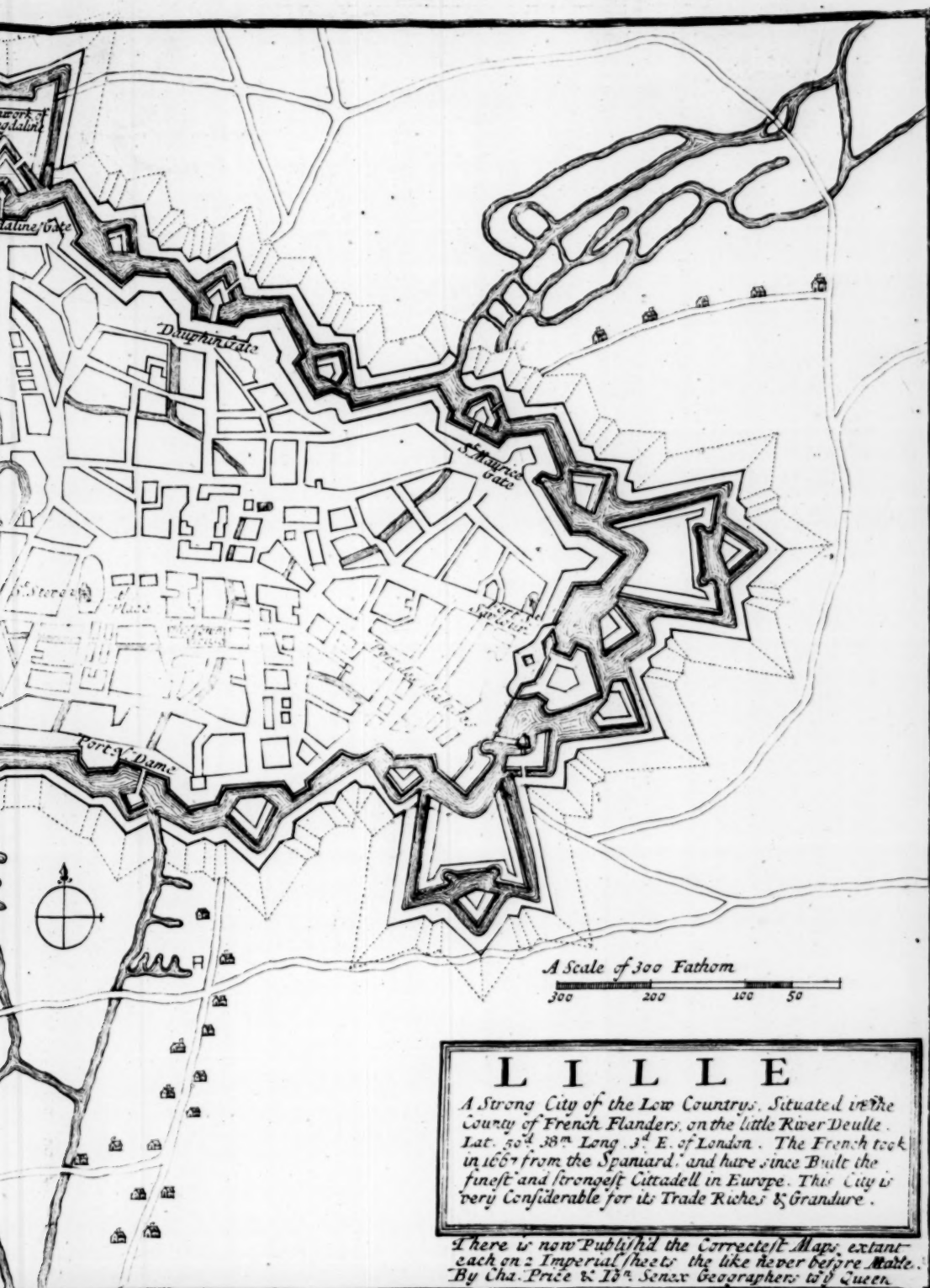
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THE  
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THE unsuccessful Attempt on *Scotland* was now over, and the Winter, which preceded a Campaign so Glorious to the High Allies, had concluded its Course and the Spring began to produce in the Fields and Meadows Forage sufficient for the Cavalry, when the Forces of the *Hannoverians*, *Prussians* and *Dutch* forsook their Winter Quarters, and began to form the Confederate Army under the Command of his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*, and Velt-Marshal *Overkirke*. Their first Rendezvous was at *Anderlecht*, a small Village near *Brussels*, where they encamp'd the 23<sup>d</sup> of

*May.*

B

*May*

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*May, New Stile.* The Weather being extremely bad, and the Roads scarcely passable at this time of the Year, they continu'd here from the 23d to the 26th of the same Month; when having struck their Tents, they march'd again, and taking their Rout in four Columns, came to *Bellingen*, and encamp'd there. His Grace the Duke took his Head Quarters in the Abbey of that Name, and Monsieur the Velt Marshal fixt his at *Hall*, a little Town which lay in the Front of the first Line. The *British* Forces that were designed to make the Campaign, without any loss of time repaired to this Camp, as did a considerable Body of Troops in the Service of the *Dutch*, drawn from their respective Garrisons in *Flanders*; and last of all, the Field-Deputies of the States arriv'd here, to whose Prudence, Generosity and Courage, the happy Successes that attended the Arms of the High Allies this Summer were in a great Measure owing.

As the Confederates were early in the Field, so the *French* upon the first notice of our Motions, immediately drew together their Troops. The 25th of this instant, their Armies encamp'd between *Mons* and *St. Gislain* a Town since famous for being surprized by the Allies, and retaken by the *French* this Campaign during the Siege of *Brussels*. In the Afternoon of the preceding Day, the Duke of *Vendosme* came to the Army, the Right of which extended to *Havre* near *Mons*, and the Left towards *Bray*. He was follow'd by the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry*, and the pretended Prince of *Wales*, who thought here to Crown himself with Laurels, and to repair those Disgraces he had received on the Coast of North *Britain*.

Thus the Troops on both sides were assembled strong in numbers, and their respective Resolutions were swell'd to a pitch of Fury, by Accidents which had happen'd previous to the Campaign. The Allies were angry with the *French* for their late Attempt upon *Scotland*; their known Worth and Bravery so often try'd, urg'd them to desire the Combate; and the slaughter of their Fellow Soldiers at *Almanza*, oppress'd by Numbers, and deny'd that Quarter they had given their Vanquishers, enflam'd them to an honourable and just Revenge; and their Resentment occasioned them to desire Battel, in which they hoped to assert the Reputation of their Companions, and to vindicate the Ashes of the Dead. Nor was the Army of his most Christian Majesty averse from hazarding every thing to the decision of a Battel. The unhappy Combat fought in *Spain*, convinc'd them that the Bravest Men

in Flanders, in the Year 1708.

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Men may be overcome by numbers. Their numerous Battalions, superiour to ours, and the Presence of the Princes of the Blood, sent to the Army with a design to restore that Spirit of Gallantry, so-peculiar to the *French* Nation (as the King of *France* was pleased to express himself) whetted their Resolutions, and made them as passionate as the *British* Soldiers for an Engagement.

It must be acknowledg'd, that the *French* Officers had taken a great deal of Pains to recruit their Army, their Men and Horses made a good appearance. Nor were their Politicians idle, the Elector of *Bavaria*, Count *Bergeick*, and Monsieur *Chamillard*, had met together, and held several private Conferences before the Armies took the Field. The Subject of their Convention was the Intelligence which the two former held with the Burghers of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, which turn'd in the end, as generally all Treachery does, to the disgrace of a Crown, which for the most part had jacquir'd its short-liv'd Glory, by no other than such Criminal Methods. The Princes of the Blood and the Duke of *Vendosm*, in order to execute the Projects that had already been concerted, march'd towards *Louvain* and the Banks of the *Dyle*. They sent away their heavy Baggage more than twice, and by their motions, seem'd to threaten the Allies with a Battel, or the Seizure of *Louvain*, which they had attempted the Year before to little Purpose: But his Grace by long marches prevented them in the last of these Designs, and as to engaging the Confederates, they had no such Intentions, as their succeeding Actions soon made appear. But the better to cover the Enterprize in Hand, they made frequent Marches and Counter-marches, sometimes advancing, and at other times retreating, till they could bring their Projects to bear; upon the breaking out of which, the *French* encamp'd at *Brain la lein*, and the Confederates at *Terbank*. Nothing extraordinary happen'd till the 4th of *June* N. S. when the Allies were strangely surprized, upon receiving Advice, that a *French* Detachment had made themselves Masters of *Ghent* and *Bruges*.

July.

Before I enter upon the Particulars of this Action, as it was executed, I desire leave to go back as far as the Original of the Enterprize, which was purely owing to Intrigues which the Elector of *Bavaria* and the Count of *Bergeick* managed in that part of *Flanders*, which was lately reduc'd to the Obedience of their Lawful Sovereign; and which, it seems, had not cast off the

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*French* Yoak, as insupportable, but only laid it down with a Resolution to take it up again, whenever a fair Opportunity should offer to that Purpose.

His Highness of *Bavaria*, as every Body knows, was made Governor of the *Spanish* Provinces in the *Netherlands*, by the influence the Emperor had over the *Spanish* Councils, during the late War, which his Catholick Majesty deceas'd waged with the Crown of *France*, the Reward of his good Services to the House of *Austria*, was a Post of so much Honour and Advantage; yet notwithstanding that Prince was ty'd to the Imperial Family by all the Obligations of Gratitude, yet upon the Death of the late King *Charles* of *Spain*, he joyned with the *Bourbon* Faction, and by means so ungentleman-like and unworthy of his Courage, procured to be continu'd in the precarious Government of the *Spanish* *Flanders*.

As this Post cost him little, so he was profuse enough of the Profits he derived from it: He was Magnificent, as his Flatterers term'd it, to a high degree; a great Admirer of the Ladies, and as a great Bigot in appearance to the Catholick Religion. Those Qualities, and the vastness of his Expences, engag'd the Affections of all the *Flanderkins* to him, who could take no further a Prospect of Affairs, than what their external Part represented. To encrease his Interest in these Provinces, his Highness gave out by his Emissaries, that the Religion of their Ancestors was in danger; that King *Charles* III. had mortgag'd his Right in *Flanders* so deeply to the States, that there was no possibility of a Redemption and that the conquer'd Cities would soon see Hereticks only preside in all Governments both Ecclesiastical and Civil; and that nothing could be expected but Impositions on their Faith, and Taxes on their Estates. The Agents of this Prince found most of the Cities which had yielded after the Battel of *Ramellies* not averse to Impressions of this Nature, they brib'd some and carest others into a Treachery, which was to be put in execution as soon as Detachments from the Army of the Duke of *Vanderm* cou'd at once give them an opportunity and a Protection for their Rebellion. *Antwerp*, *Bruges* and *Ghent* were in the Conspiracy to submit themselves once more to the Duke of *Anjou*. And 'tis probable several other Places had assum'd the same Designs had not the Garrisons of the Allies hinder'd them from shewing their sincere Intentions. The *French* and the Allies had now continued a considerable time in their Encampments; the Allies waiting



waiting for Prince *Eugene's* taking the Field with an Army that was to be composed of the Troops of *Prussia* and *Hesse*, some Regiments of the Elector *Palatine's*, and some *Imperialists*. The motion of this Body was retarded by several Difficulties raised concerning the March of the *Palatine* Forces; which the *French* having Intelligence of, and concluding that the our Armies would hardly venture to force them in the Passes and Defiles they had seized on, immediately commanded a Detachment to march towards *Ghent* and *Bruges*, in order to surprize those Towns; on the 5th of *July*, N. S.

The same Day about Noon, Advice was brought to the *Ghent* and Camp of the Allies, that in the Morning between five and six *Bruges* of the Clock, the *French* had taken possession of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, *rendez.* their manner of effecting it was thus: A Party of their Troops, commanded by the Brigadiers *La Faille* and *Pasteur*, advanc'd before Break of Day to the first of these Places; five or six Soldiers went before, and upon the opening of the Gates the *French* pretended they were Deserters to the Watch, which consisted of Burghers, and was not more numerous than those who amuz'd them with stories of their Desertion. Immediately after another small Company of the same Kidney appeared, and entertain'd the Watch with the like frivolous Relations, till Brigadier *La Faille* came in Person, who immediately appeared, and ordered the Guards at the Gates to lay down their Arms, and submit themselves to the King of *Spain*. They obey'd his Orders without any resistance, and that General after he had secured the Gates and admitted the *French*, march'd directly to the Town-house, where he summoned the Burghers to meet; upon their convening he commanded a General Pardon to be read in which Assurances were given them of being protected in their Antient Liberties and Franchises. The Tenour of that Pardon is as follows, and give us a light into several things we were before Strangers to.

*Maximilian Emanuel &c.*

**HIS** Electoral Highness entertaining Hopes, before his Departure for the Rhine, that the Duke of *Burgundy* by the Superiority of his Forces, would obtain some good Success in the Course of the Campaign, and deliver the chief Towns of *Flanders* from the Oppression which they have suffer'd since they have been in the Hands of the Enemy, thought fit to leave his Orders for Signifying to the Magistrates of *Ghent*, and to all the Inhabitants of

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of the same, how highly satisfy'd he is with the Zeal, Fidelity and Adherence, which they have always shewn for the King their Lawful Sovereign, and preserv'd during the Time they have been in the Possession of the Enemy: And also for assuring them, that if by the good Success of the Army of the two Crowns they be again recover'd to the Obedience of his Catholick Majesty, he will not only protect and maintain them in their ancient Privileges, Rights and Customs, but also enlarge them with such as they shall judge to conduce most to their common Benefit. And for the Satisfaction and Security of those who may not have behav'd themselves as good Subjects, his Majesty has granted, and grants by this Act a general Pardon to all who in any manner whatsoever have been wanting to their Duty. Also his Electoral Highness in consideration of such happy Success, promises all those who are in the Magistracy of *Ghent*, that they shall continue in their Offices for 2 Years to come. His Electoral Highness commands all whom this may concern, to govern themselves according to it. Done at *Mons* the 12th of *May*. Sign'd,

M. EMANUEL.

And underneath, *The Count de Bergeyck*.

By the date and contexture of this Pardon, it visible appears, that the Burghers of *Ghent* had a part in this Treachery, and had signify'd their Resolution of shaking off their Obedience to King *Charles*, to such Persons as the Elector of *Bavaria* had entrusted with the management of these Practices. If this Reflection was not a solid Truth, the *French* were wonderfully good natur'd, or had the Gift of Prophecy to Pardon a number of Persons so long before they desired or wanted one; nor is it probable but that in case the Burghers had intended to defend the Place, greater Care would have been taken of the Gates; nor would the Inhabitants in Prudence have trusted their Lives and Liberties to a Watch of 5 or 6 Men, if they had look'd upon the *French* to have been their Enemies: Besides, the express Words of the Pardon declare how highly satisfy'd his Electoral Highness was with the Zeal, Fidelity and Adherence which they had always testify'd for the King their Lawful Sovereign, and which they had preserv'd during their Subjection to the Enemy; so that all the Chymeras used by the *French* to convince the World, that they ow'd the possession of this Town rather to Stratagem than Treachery, have no manner of weight in them, and only discover what they have a mind

to avoid. As soon as the Town was taken, the *French* caused the Governor of the Cittadel to be summoned to surrender; but the Officer that commanded therein returned an answer, that he would defend it to the last Extremity. Hereupon the *French* began their Attacks against it, and Major General *Murray*, who was posted at *Marienkirk* with two *English* and one *Spanish* Batallions endeavoured to throw a Reinforcement into the Castle, but was repulsed in his design, and obliged to retire. The Governor of the Cittadel capitulated the next Day, as did the Town of *Bruges*, upon a Detachment of the *French* Army arriving before that Place, without making the least opposition, only some Ceremonies in the matter were observed, and certain Conditions agreed upon respecting the Receiver of their Contributions and his Comptroller; but the whole Air of the Capitulation demonstrated, that the Articles thereof were agreed upon long before by other Persons than they that pretended to execute them.

Upon Major General *Murray*'s leaving this Town he retired to *Sax van Ghent*, where he found Messieurs *Tullecken*, *Quint*, *Steenberghen* and *Neyveen*, Deputies of the States for the Affairs of *Flanders*. They seem'd concerned at Events which happen'd so contrary to the common expectation; with these he concerted proper Methods to put the Frontiers in a posture of Defence, and for securing such Posts as seem'd most exposed. The Garrison of the *Red House* was reinforced with 50 Men, and soon after with 100 more. Two hundred Dragoons of the Regiment of *d'Andignies* were commanded to the Lines of *Biervliet*, and 40 were sent to *Hulst*; all the Troops which were in *Sluice* march'd for *Damme*, except 50 Men, which place seem'd to be in a great deal of danger.

But whilst the Deputies of the States were endeavouring to find Methods how to obstruct the Progress of the *French*, and secure the Towns in that part of *Flanders* from the Force and Intrigues of the two Crowns. The Duke of *Marlborough* and Monsieur *Auverquerque* bent their March towards the Grand Army commanded by the Princes of the Blood and the Duke of *Vandome*. These Generals, either puff'd up with that good Success which so lately attended their Arms, and so rarely of late Years, smiled upon the *French*, or imagining that the residue of the *Spanish* Towns in *Flanders* could as easily be won by Force as the two former were by Treachery, drew near to *Audenarde*, and invested that Town \* *Siege of*  
the 19th of July N. S. What the Intention of the *French* could be *Oudenard*.  
by



by undertaking a Siege in the very sight of the Confederate Army is hard to determine: They must in reason imagine, that this would occasion a Battel, and yet that was a risk they plainly declined when the Allies march'd to relieve the Town and attack them. Some Persons have imputed this false step to the rashness of the Duke of *Burgundy*, and others to the ill Harmony that was betwixt that General and the Duke of *Wandome*; but 'tis evident that let the fault be where it will, this Siege drew on the subsequent Disgrace: The Gallick Troops retired from the preceding Town, upon their leaving of which they neither took proper Methods to fight or fly. But before I describe a Battel, the fatal consequence of which has afforded the High Allies an opportunity of penetrating into *France*, and of laying Countries under Contribution, which for a long Series of Years have known no other Taxes than those which they paid towards the Oppression of their Neighbours. I beg leave to look back a little, and to give a compendious Account of the Marches which the Confederate Generals took in order to fight the Enemy, and of some others Accidents which happened preceding this Engagement, and which give a clearer light to the whole Narration.

The Duke of *Marlborough* and Monsieur *Overkirk*, having receiv'd Advice as I have already hinted, that the Enemy held Intelligence with the Burghers of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, march'd from their Camp at *Terbank*, and pass'd the Canal near *Brussels* in four Columns; their Right extending as far as the *Moulin de Tombergh*, and their Left to *Anderlecht*. From this Camp, to prevent the ill Consequences of the former Treachery, the General ordered four Regiments for *Dendermonde* and from thence they were to have proceeded farther, but they came too late. At the same time the *French* pass'd the *Seine* at *Hall* and *Tubise*, and were passing at the Mill of *Goick* till late in the Evening, within a league of the Confederate's Right Wing, whose Army having made a very long March, it was not judg'd practicable to attack them that Night. Early the next day our Army form'd themselves in order of Battel; but the Enemy frustrated our Intentions of Engaging, and during the Overture of the Night, had pass'd their Army over the *Dender* with the utmost expedition, taking their Rout through the Town of *Ninove*, and over several Bridges, which were made near it for that Purpose; so that the Detachment which was sent to fall upon their Rear Guards, came too late to find any thing but their Small Baggage, and the Forces which Guarded it.



Ten Squādrons and five Batallions under the Command of Major General *Thulenburg* and Sir *Richard Temple*, beat this Convoy and made themselves Masters of a great deal of Baggage. After this Enterprize was over, the Allies encamp'd at *Asche*, where Prince *Eugene* joyn'd the Army, whose Presence materially contributed to those Glorious Successes which soon after attended such Forces, he did the Honour to Command. Here the Army rested two days, and a Council of War was called. The March of the Baggage was regulated, and Pioneers sent before to clear the Ways, and to put the Roads in such a Condition, as might facilitate our Armies coming to Action. About this time his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* was taken with a Fit of an Intermitting Fever, but that Disease could not retard his Vigour, his Body yielded to his Mind, and before many Hours he saw himself in a Condition to perform the Duties of his Post. In the mean time the *French* had iusted *Oudenarde*. In order to cover the Siege of which, their Army made a Motion, with an Intent of taking the Camp of *Lessines*. If they had effected this, that Town must have of course, submitted to Mercy, being absolutely cut off from receiving any Relief from the Confederates. The *French* were so near this Advantageous Post, that they thought themselves sure of it; and that or some other hidden Cause made them negligent of improving the present Crisis. But soon to their vast Surprise their Scouts brought them notice, that the Troops of the Allies having march'd all Night, had prevented them in their Design, and were ready to enter into a Camp, which they had mark'd out as their own. The proper Measures that had been before concerted by the Confederate Generals, occasioned so extraordinary and swift a March, the whole Army having measur'd fifteen Miles from the Day-light to Eleven in the Morning of the same Day. Thus the *French* being disappointed in securing themselves of *Lessines*, left the Road to that Place, and advanc'd in the way to *Gavre* to pass the *Scheld* there: This March of the Duke of *Marlborough's* acquainted the *French* with his real Intention; and they knew him too well to suspect his Advancing portended any thing else except an Engagement. They therefore abandon'd the Siege of *Audenarde*, and took their Course towards their Lines. Whatever infatuated the *French* Armies to vary thus in their Councils, and to alter their Designs so often as they did, without being steady in any resolve, I shan't pretend to determine; it will be time enough to consider the Measures which they took

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in this Battel, after I have given the description on it; but this is most evident, that these their uncertain Proceedings gave the Confederates time to overtake their Armies, before they were in a condition to receive them.

*Wednesday* the 11th of *July* N. S. was the day appointed by Providence, in which the Troops of *France* lost both the Reputation of their Courage and Military Judgment: But since I am fallen upon a Theme of so much weight, and which, in all probability, will employ the Pens of the ablest Historians; I must affirm, that there is a vast Diversity in the relation of the future Action, both by the Persons who were actually upon the spot, and by such who undertook to publish a Narrative of the whole Proceedings in the Engagement. It must be allow'd that in Accidents of this nature it is impossible for any Person to give an exact account of all the material Transactions, where so many Occurrences perplex the Eye, and distract the Judgment of the Spectator His own Concerns, unless in General Officers, where the Case is different, naturally carries such a Person not to be extremely intente on things distinct from his Duty, and the fire of the Regiment often hinders an Officer from seeing what is acted in a different Plottoon of the same Batallion: To avoid therefore those Errors, which by following uncertain and particular Reports, I might be drawn into, I have took the succeeding Account of this Memorable Day, pursuant to what has been printed upon this Subject by the Authority of the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, which Narration seems more genuine, regular and clear, than any thing I have been acquainted with relating to the same Action.

All things being ready in the Confederate Camp for an Engagement, and the Officers and Soldiers in general shewing an inexpressible Ardour to give marks of their Resolution and Bravery, Major General *Cadogan* was detach'd with 8 Squadrons and 16 Batallions to *Andenarde*, to make Ways and Bridges there, for the Passage of the Army over the River that runs near that Town. The Army follow'd after in four Columns, about 8 of the Clock in the Morning, and march'd in the same manner they had encamp'd the Night before, directing their Rout to the Left. during the march, Advice was brought, that the Enemy's Army was yet passing at *Gavre*, and that if they used expedition, there were yet hopes of an Engagement. This Piece of News was so agreeable to the Army, that they all march'd, from the General Officers to the private Men, with all imaginable Vigour, respectively

respectively encouraging one another to undergo the Fatigues of the way, which would at length afford 'em an opportunity of signalizing their Courage. So great was the heat of the Soldiers for Action, that several who were carried on Horses before the Fight, when the Attack began, dismounted, and tho weak and ill, did very remarkable Service. At 2 of the Clock, the Front of the whole Army arrived at the Bridges, over which the sixteen Batallions that march'd with Major General *Cadogan* were then passing.

Eight Squadrons and part of the former Detachment, with the Quarter-masters and Major General *Rantzau* at the head of them, were posted behind a Rivulet that runs into the *Scheld*: These Gentlemen took Notice, that the *French* Army were partly marching, and partly drawn up in order of Battel. The Troops that went forwards took their Road through the Village of *Hearne*, which is situated on the Banks of the *Scheld*, and has a High-way that runs through it, and which extends it self along the River I have just mentioned. Into this Post the *French* threw seven Batallions, and the Neighbouring Plains which fronted the small Village, were fill'd with the Troops of the Household, who were drawn up exactly opposite to the eight Squadrons under Major General *Rantzau*, no Obstacle but a small Rivulet dividing them: Behind the Village, where Morasses, Woods and Defiles, so that an Army had no other way conveniently to march but through the High Road. This disposition of the *French* made it uncertain whether their real Design was to hinder the Duke of *Marlborough's* passing the *Scheld*, or to gain their own Lines between *Lisle* and *Tournay*, which they thought they might have done, not thinking that so considerable a Body as that of the Confederates could march five Leagues in a close Country abounding in Passes and Defiles, have their Roads levell'd, pass a great River, and make an Attack upon them in the same day. About three a Clock in the Afternoon the *French* Cavalry began to disappear, directing their March towards their own Right. This Motion of the Horse gave Major General *Cadogan* an opportunity of falling upon the seven Batallions posted in the Village of *Hearn*, who now had no other Aid at Hand than what their own Valour could befriend them with. These that Officer ordered to be charged with twelve Batallions of the sixteen under his Command, the other four being too far in the Rear: Brigadier *Sabin* at the Head of his Brigade began the Attack,



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and being well seconded by the rest, he utterly defeated them, taking three of the seven Batallions entire, and making many Prisoners of the Officers and private Men that belong'd to the other four.

Immediately after, General *Rantzau*, at the Head of the eight Squadrons, with the Quarter-masters, forded the Rivulet, and enter'd into the Plain, where part of the *French* Horse had been drawn up between the Villages of *Rotz* and *Mullen*, a great many Squadrons of their Rear-Guard being still filing thro' that Plain. The eight Squadrons, with the Quarter-masters, being form'd into Order of Battel, charg'd them with great Vigour and drove them into the close Grounds and the High way which led into the March of their own Army. Here it was that the Electoral Prince of *Hannover*, who had obtained leave to make the Campaign in *Flanders*, and had arrived a few days before, signaliz'd himself, and acted things worthy of his Birth and those Illustrious Crowns he's destin'd to. That Prince charged, with Sword in Hand, as a Volunteer, at the Head of his Father's Dragoons, commanded by Lieutenant General *Bulan*: His Horse was shot under him, and Collonel *Luskey*, who commanded the Squadron where he charg'd, fighting like a Man of Honour, was kill'd in his Presence. Several other Volunteers of a high Rank, distinguish'd themselves upon this Occasion; amongst whom were Lieutenant General *Schuylenburg*. These Gentlemen charged in the Van of the Horse, with equal Spirit and Gallantry, Animating, by their Example, the Private Men, till Fortune declared in favour of the Allies, The *French* that were posted here, after they had behaved themselves like Men of Courage, broke in Confusion, and Collonel *la Bertoch*, who commanded them, having given eminent Proofs of his Valour, was wounded and taken Prisoner, and his whole Party defeated, with the loss of several Officers, 12 Standards and 2 Kettle-Drums.

The *French* Army, which seem'd to direct their March for *Tournay*, observing the success of the Engagement at the Village of *Hearn*, and being sensible that the Confederates would soon Attack them, having for that purpose pass'd their Troops over the *Scheld*, found themselves under a necessity to make a Stand. Fill'd with these thoughts, they drew their Forces in Order before the Castle of *Brœan*, having in their Front several Defiles, guarded with Inclosures of Hedges, Ditches, or Thickets. As the Confederate Troops came forwards, the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince

*Eugene*



*Eugene* form'd the Right Wing, a little distance from the Castle where the *French* drew up in Battalia : After the Discharge of a few Field Pieces, the Action came on, and the Fire was most terrible, every foot of Ground being disputed with the utmost Vigour and Obstinacy. But the Troops of the High Allies being encouraged by the Presence and Example of the Generals, made their way thro' all Obstacles that might hinder or retard their Victory ; they broke the Enemy every where, and obliged them, tho' with a great deal of Reluctancy, to quit their Posts, which they had well defended. The Left Wing as yet was little or nothing at all engaged, because of the Defiles and the long circuit they were to take, to be able to charge the Enemy ; yet the Velt-Marshal *a' Auverquerque*, who had been in a languishing Condition all the Winter long, was now mounted on Horse-back, and resolved to force the *French* to a Battel. The Fatigues of fifty Campaigns which he had made, nor his ill State of Health could not hinder him from shewing this the last Proof of his great Courage. He gave Orders to Major General *Weck* to march with the Brigades of *Wassenaer* and *Oudenburg*. These Brigades, supported by the Cavalry under the Command of Count *Tilly*, took Post in a small Plain, where they drew up in Order of Battel. The *French* retir'd and immediately shelter'd themselves under the Coverture of the Hedges between *Broan* and *Lede* towards the main Body of their Army, where the Fire was very hot. Hither came the Prince of *Nassau*, with Count *Oxenstern* and four Brigades of Infantry, which charg'd the Enemy in Flank ; and so about 6 a Clock in the Evening, the Right, Left and Main Bodies were all engag'd. The Enemy gave Ground every where, and in their Retreat met some Battalions of ours, whose Ardor of engaging had carried them too far from our other Troops.

At last the Enemies finding themselves charg'd both in Front and Flank, and being unable to withstand any longer the Efforts of our Foot, who fought not only with Bravery but Emulation, the King's Household, which had suffered very much, retired in the utmost disorder, leaving many Prisoners behind them, whom their Wounds or the Crowd, would not permit to retreat as fast as their Companions. The Dragoons favour'd their Retreat, and received on Horse-back several discharges of our Foot, so that they affirm'd with a great deal of justice, they sacrific'd themselves to save the Troops of the Household : They would afterwards have made their escape, but were intercepted by the

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Confederate Cavalry, and so were cut to pieces in endeavouring to save them; so that out of four Regiments which were engag'd in this part of the Action, one half of their number were all Slain, and whilst the rest were considering what Methods were proper for their Safety, some Adjutants belonging to the High Allies commanded to that purpose, offer'd them Quarter, if they would surrender Prisoners of War, which terms they had discretion to accept of. Several other Regiments followed their Example, and secured themselves by accepting the like Terms. The Night, which gives Rest to all Men, put an end to the Slaughter, and sav'd the remainder of the *French* Troops; and if the Day had continued but for 2 or 3 Hours longer, the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry* must have given a much more dismal Account of the Campaign to the Monarch their Grandfather. They were so sincere as to acknowledge, which is much contrary to the Custom of the *French*, that several of their best Regiments were render'd unserviceable, that two very fine Battalions of *Swiss*, viz. *Phisser* and *Villars*, underwent the same Fate, and that the Regiment of the *Chevalier de Rohan* and the *Queen's*, were entirely destroy'd, and that of *Burgundy* reduc'd to the same Condition.

Thus ended the Battel of *Andenarde*, which was concerted, began and prosecuted by the Confederate Generals, with all the Judgment, Vigour and consummate Prudence imaginable, and 'tis hard to determine what praise is due both to our Officers and Soldiers in general upon this Account. 'Tis surprizing, that the Soldiers should march to Battel with such an unheard of Fervor; and 'tis as wonderful, that the *French* should take no other Methods than such which certainly led them to their own Destruction. When the Allies were passing the *Scheld* just in the Face of the *French*, their Consternation was such, they never so much as offer'd to dispute our Passage, which they might easily have done forthwith with much more reason than they pretended to defend some Defiles and Passes afterwards. If their intention was to fly, what could be their Motives not to fall upon the Confederates with a superior number of Horse, whilst the Foot made their escape? Such an Attempt would have protracted Time at least, and drawn out the Day, the conclusion of which must have given them Safety and Protection. If their Design was to fight, why did not they make use of all their Forces? What could induce them to send away their Infantry, when they would have been

been of so much use in defending of the Passes and Defiles? But these uncertain Methods plainly prove, that there was no good Harmony between the Generals, and assert the Truth of those common Reports concerning their Dissentions, which were rumour'd about by Deserters.

The Great *Montecuculi*, General of the *German* Troops, upon engaging with the *Ottomans*, acted after the manner of the *French* in this Combate, and permitted the *Mussel-men*, superiour to him in number, to pass a River in sight of his Army without making any opposition, till the greatest part of them were quite over: But then he charged them with a success much different from what the *French* found at *Audenarde*, and perfectly broke the Enemy and drove them back again into the River, whose Stream he choak'd up with those Enemies to the *Christian* Faith; but the Motives that this Gentleman and the Duke of *Burgundy* acted by, were very different. The reason which induc'd that Experienced Officer to permit the *Turkish* Army to come so near, was in order to make sure of them, and to give them such a Blow they might not soon recover; his Notion and Assurance were grounded upon a very good Foundation. The *Germans* were all Veterans, nursed up in Blood and Victory; nor were their Numbers despicable: 'Tis true, the Grand Signior's Army had more Men, but *Montecuculi's* had more Soldiers. The *Turkish* Troops consisted of a Raw Undisciplin'd Multitude, composed of *Asiatick* Slaves and Barbarous *Tartars*, who neither knew the Discipline of War, nor could be taught it. All that the Infidels could well depend on, was their *Janizaries* and *Spahi's*, which did not amount to above Twenty thousand Men, and who were far exceeded by his well Exercised Army. As the Grounds that Officer proceeded on were very different from those the *French* made use of, so the Event was as different, and Monsieur *Montecuculi* purchased the Reputation of a wise Man by his Conduct, as the Duke of *Burgundy* did that of an unthinking, ungovernable General.

To affirm what number of Men the *French* lost in this Battel, would be too presumptuous; and indeed 'tis hardly possible to imagine, that an Enemy will calculate exactly in such Matters. Several reasons oblig'd the Vanquish'd Party to conceal the loss they sustain'd; but in an Actions of this nature 'tis much more difficult to form a reasonable Conjecture. The Spot where the Blow was struck was full of Defiles and Passes, and gave the Friends



of the Wounded an opportunity of carrying them off; the Night came on, and was another Friend to obscure the Misfortunes of the *French*; nor could the dead Bodies of the Slain be any Rule to depend on, for they being generally stript, and often falling irregularly, 'tis hard to know to which Party they belong. All that I may safely venture to affirm concerning this Matter, must be gathered from such who knew the Fact, and was able to give an account of it. I have therefore here inserted the Extract of a Letter writ by a *French* Officer, the Author of which seeming Impartial by the Passion he was in, and by the Offence he took at the Conduct of the Enemy's General, gives an air of sincerity to the Piece, and renders it to a Man of Sense Authentick.

**I** Can only send you an unwelcome Relation of the Particulars of the Battel which happen'd yesterday about two in the Afternoon near *Audenarde*. 'Twill prove a great Blow to *France*; for without exaggerating the Matter, we had above 10000 Men killed, wounded or taken. The Action was very ill managed on our side; for instead of attacking the Enemy when they began to pass the *Scheld* near *Audenarde* at 11 in the Morning, we let them come over the River quietly, which they would not have adventur'd to do, had we in any tollerable manner offer'd to dispute their Passage; but seeing us stand still, they were encourag'd to prosecute their first Design, and begun to pass over two Bridges which they had laid. As fast as their Horse and Foot came over, they rang'd themselves in Order of Battel against us; and while our Generals were in Suspense what Resolution to take, whether to venture an Engagement or not, the Enemy's Army continued coming over the River, and soon possess'd themselves of some Villages and Hedges; so that at last our Generals were compell'd to endeavour to dislodge them. Accordingly our Infantry advanc'd, and the Ground was disputed two or three Hours, with a terrible Fire and great Obstinacy on both sides; but our Foot being tir'd with charging the Enemy five or six times, and being dishearten'd to see themselves not supported by our Horse (who could not act because the Ground was full of Enclosures) and press'd hard by the Enemy, were at length forc'd to retire and quit the Ground to them. We Dragoons were oblig'd to endure the continual Fire of the Enemy's Foot and Cannon, without

out daring to stir, because we were on the Right of the King's Household, who suffer'd as much as we. Towards the Evening we were fallen upon by a great number of the Enemies Horse, to hinder us from succouring the rest, who were put to the Rout; and of seven Regiments of Dragoons, we lost above half. At last we saw no other expedient left, than to force our way through the Enemy; but first we sent to see whether we could be assisted in that Design by any of our Forces: In the mean time, Night came on apace, and we were inform'd that the King's Household (whose Retreat was cover'd in some measure by us) were at too great a distance. Things standing thus, our Resolution to break through the Enemy sunk; and some of the Enemies Adjutants summoning us to yield our selves Prisoners of War, we submitted to it, seeing no other way to save our our Lives. At least forty of our Regiments are reduc'd to a wretched Condition, the greatest part of them being kill'd or taken; so that it will be long before they can be re-establish'd. Of four Regiments of the King's Household, at least half, are taken Prisoners, and among them are several Persons of Note. The Chevalier *de Longville* and fifteen other Officers were mortally wounded, and two of them are dead since the Battle. The Regiments of *Pfiffer* and *Villars* are quite ruin'd, and almost all their Officers are taken, with all their Baggage, &c.

The Loss of the *French* in this Battel, as I said before, is pretty well computed by the Person who writ the former Letter: But that Gentleman not being Particular, I have thought fit to add, that upon a fair Computation, it appears that 750 of their Officers were made Prisoners, viz. a Lieutenant-General, 4 Major Generals, 5 Brigadeers, 14 Collonels, 6 Lieutenant Collonels, 9 Majors, 206 Captains, 147 Lieutenants, 96 Cornets, 186 Gens d'arms and 47 Quarter Masters. The Chief amongst these were the Chevalier *de Rohan*, the Duke *de St. Agnan*, the Duke of *Charost*, the Marquis *de Byron*, and the Marquis *de Ruffey*. Those of the most considerable Rank that were kill'd, were the Sieur *de Bertoch*, and the Marquis *de Ximenes*, Collonel of the Royal Regiment of *Roussillon*.

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The Allies lost a Major General, the Collonels *Adercas* and *Bolsen*, Lieutenant Collonel *Hop*, and 42 other Officers, and near 1000 Private Men. The Brigadiers *Bauwerker* and *Berner*, 4 Collonels, and 160 other Officers, and near 2000 Men were wounded. Of the *English* Officers, Sir *John Matthews* and Captain *Dean* of the Guards, were reckon'd amongst the Slain, Major General *Meredith* received a Shot on the Cheek, and Collonel *Groves* and Collonel *Penyfeather* were dangerously wounded: But as the Allies had no such reason to conceal their Losses, as the *French*, so they wav'd all Disguises, and publickly set forth a List of those that fell in their Service in this Action, I have therefore thought fit to insert it, by which the number of the Dead and Wounded do most exactly appear.

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Britains



	Colonels killed.	Colonels wound.	Lieut. Colonels killed.	Lieut. Colonels wound.	Majors killed.	Majors wound.	Capt. kil. cd.	Capt. wound.	Subalt. Officers killed.	Subalt. Officers wound.	Sergts. ki'd.	Sergts. wound.	Private Men kill'd.	Private Men wound.
Britains,		2	1					6	4	5	1	7	43	104
Danes,	1	1		1		2	1	5	4	18		26	201	346
Prussians,					1	1	1	2		5		12	50	136
Hannoverians,		1		2		3	4	1	1	11	9	19	105	310
Dutch,	1	2	1	5		3	9	34	24	62	13	38	305	1006
Total,	2	6	2	9	1	9	15	48	33	101	23	102	749	1871

The *ALLIES* took,

Colours

Standards

Kettle-Drums

51;

50;

10,

Without including those taken by the *Prussians*, which they have kept without giving any account thereof.

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'Tis true, that if we consider the numbers of Men that fell at the Battel of *Blenheim*, this Victory will appear very poor and diminutive in comparifon of that; but if again on the other Hand, we consider the vaft Advantages that have and may follow it, and to what miserable Circumftances the *French* muft of courfe be reduc'd by this furprizing Blow, which has render'd their Cafe defpicable to all *Europe*, when we reflect juftly on thefe things, Impartial Perfons muft own, that the weight of this Stroak has done his Moft Christian Majesty more mischief, than the Slaughter of his Armies at *Hochftet*, as Experience already in great part has verifi'd: But whatever Notions fome particular Perfons may entertain of this Battle and the Confequences of it; yet the *English* in general were extreamly pleas'd with the Succefs thereof.

The Princes of the Blood and the Duke of *Vandome* with their fhatter'd Troops, retir'd in the utmoft Confufion towards *Ghent*. The Princes, with the Chevalier *de St George*, arriv'd there by 5 in the Morning, the Day after this memorable Battel. They left the Duke of *Vandome* to bring up the Rear; who being oblig'd to ftay behind to perform the Functions of his Duty, did not arrive there till 5 or 6 Hours after. Immediately he commanded the Troops to march through *Ghent*, without making any halt, to *Levendegem*, on the Canal not far from that City. The Retreat of the Foot was very irregular, and rather look'd like a flight; as for the Horfe, having had but little fhare in the Action, they retir'd in better order; and having left their Cannon and light Baggage at *Gavre*, the Day on which the Fight commenc'd, they had the good fortune to fave it, and planted it on the Intrenchments which they caft up for their Security on the Banks of the Canal, and there ftaid, as it were, to recover themfelves out of the Fright and Terrors they had fo lately been in. The Night after the Battel the Confederate Army fleep'd upon their Arms, and early next Morning Lieutenant General *Bulan* was detach'd in purfuit of the Enemy: He overtook their Rear-Guard, and charging them too hotly, was fired upon by a Party of Grenadiers, who had thrown themfelves into fome Hedges and Ditches, expecting fuch an opportunity of doing an inconfiderable execution.

The Confederate Troops being return'd to their Camp, which was the Field of Battel, they refted the 12th and 13th of *July*, whilst the Duke of *Marlborough*, Prince *Eugene*, the Velt Marshal

*&c Au.*

*d' Auverquerque*, and the Deputies of the States General, debated in a Council of War, what was necessary to be done for the prosecution of the good Success wherewith God had been pleased to favour the Army of the Allies. The Result of their Meeting was, That the Army under the Duke of *Marlborough* should immediately march towards *Menin*, pass the *Lys*, level the Lines between *Warneton* and *Ipres*, and hinder any Detachment from getting into the last of these Places. Prince *Eugene* was to march at the same time towards *Brussels*, in order to assemble the Army which he was to Command, to observe the Duke of *Berwick*, who had also drawn together a considerable Body made up of Detachments from the *Rhine* and other Places, and to hinder the *French* from retiring into *Brabant* by the same way they came. According to these Resolutions, Count *Lottum*, General of the *Prussians*, march'd the 13th at Night, with 30 Battalions and 40 Squadrons, the next Day advanced towards the *French* Lines, and took several small Places. The same Day, being the 15th, the Army took their Rout towards *Menin*, passed the *Lys* near that Place, and encamp't within a small distance from the Town. Whilst a Detachment from our Army demolish'd the *French* Lines between *Ipres* and the *Lys*, another was sent to raise Contributions as far as *Arras*; the Deputies of which not being able to agree concerning the same, return'd back again. Upon this our Generals had recourse to Military Executions; and a Party of the Allies burnt two Suburbs belonging to that Town, and would have obliged the Town of *Lens* to have undergone the same Fate, but that the Inhabitants had so much Prudence as to give Hostages for the Sums of Money which were demanded of them.

Whilst these Affairs were transacting, and our Troops expected their heavy Cannon, in order to undertake a Siege, the *French* continu'd in their Posts upon the Canal of *Bruges*, without giving our Army any disturbance. Here they heal'd their late Wounds, as well as the Time would permit them, and endeavour'd to put their Army in a condition of looking the Confederates once more in the Face. The only Method they pitch'd upon as most proper to undertake, was to harras the *Dutch Flanders* with small Parties. This they did, and whilst our Army rais'd vast Contributions in *Piccardy* and else where, the *French* plunder'd a few Boors under the Government of the States. Their

next



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next Attempts was against the Forts of the *Red-House* and *Plassendaël*, which they made themselves Masters of, Sword in Hand. These Places are situated between *Ghent* and *Sax van Ghent*, and open'd them way for further Conquests. But whilst the *French* pretended to amuse the Confederates by threatening to ravage all the *Dutch Flanders*, several Detachments of the Allies plunder'd the Countries of *Piccardy* and *Artois*. Count *Tilly*, the Lieutenants General *Orkney*, *Rantzau* and *Hompesch*, the Majors General *Webb*, *Rantzau*, and Count *Erbeck*, with 50 Squadrons, 12 Battalions and 1000 Grenadiers, advanc'd into *Piccardy* to lay the same under Contribution, or to put that Province under Military Execution. This Detachment about the 26th of *July*, fell in with 800 Horse near *La Bassée* and *Lens*, a part of the Cavalry belonging to the Duke of *Berwick's* Army, of which a considerable number were kill'd, and a Collonel, a Major, a Captain, and 200 Troopers were taken Prisoners. Our Troops pursued the Enemy to the Gates of *Lens*, wherein the Enemy had posted 1400 Foot, which abandon'd the Place upon the approach of our Infantry. After this Action, the same Generals raised considerable Sums in the Province of *Piccardy*, burnt the Suburbs of *Dourlens*, and return'd with Hostages for the Contributions they had agreed on to be paid to the Allies, without any loss at all.

But tho the raising Contributions very much weakned the Enemies, and had a good Tendency in order to our reducing the Power of *France*; yet the Confederate Generals had a much deeper Design, and of infinite more importance than the ruine of 2 or 3 *French* Provinces. They had with all imaginable Precaution found means to provide themselves with a vast Train of Artillery, which by this time was arriv'd in the Camp thro many difficulties and hazards, which the Vigilance and Conduct of the Prince of *Hesse*, who commanded the Parties that Convoy'd it, had surmounted: Nor had the Allies been wanting in the storing up of Magazines at *Menin* sufficient for a Siege of Importance; Horses, Waggon and other Conveniences for a like Undertaking, were in a readiness. The Army under Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* had joyned the Confederates, and nothing now remain'd for our Generals to do, but to put their Designs in execution. The *French*, who foresaw the Storm, were not idle, and rightly conjecturing that *Lille* was the Place which the

the Confederates intended to bend their Force against, had made suitable Provisions to the greatness of the danger, they apprehended. Hither Monsieur *Chamillard* and the Marshal *Boufflers*, who was Governor of the Town, repaired some time before it was Invested; the one come to Command the Besieged, and the other to cheer up the Officers and Soldiers, with Promises of Preferment to such who should as should signalize themselves by their Fidelity, Patience and Courage, in an Affair of so great Moment. But the Money that he brought with him was a stronger Argument than any other he could offer. With this he Animated the Garrison, and put them into a Resolution of defending the Place to the last Extremity; Nor was these Precautions more than necessary: for by this time the Confederate Troops were marching to attack the Place, which was actually invested the 13th of August N. S. in the following manner. The Artillery being arrived at *Postes*, and all things concerted for the Siege of *Lille*, the Prince of *Orange* was detach'd with 31 Batallions to take Post at *Marquet* upon the *Deule*, within half a League of *Lille*, and Lieutenant General *Wood* with 34 Squadrons, march'd to *Posteghem*. *Lille Invested.*

The Grand Army march'd from their Camp at *Werwick* to *Helchin*, and the same day Prince *Eugene* having pass'd the *Mark* at *Pont Tressin*, invested the Town between that Place and the Upper *Deule*, whilst the Prince of *Orange* did the same with his Detachment between the Upper and Lower *Deule*, by which means the Enemy were shut up and could put no further Reinforcements into the Place. My Lord Duke took upon him to cover the Siege, and thereupon pitch'd his Camp at *Helchin*, where he had a Conveniency from time to time to reinforce the Troops employed in the Siege, or to march to fight the Enemy, as occasion should require; but Fortune is seldom constant to one Party. Much about this time the French received Advice, That the Town of *Tortosa* in *Spain* had submitted to the Arms of the Duke of *Anjou*. Hereupon great Rejoycings were made in the French Camp, and the Burghers of *Ghent* would needs shew their Loyalty to their present Lords upon that Occasion. The Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry*, with the Chevalier *de St. George*, arrived at that Place about Nine in the Morning from *Lovendeghem*, where their Army lay in Camp, and were attended at the Gates by the Magistrates in their Formalities, and about 100 Men with Torches of white Wax

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Wax in their Hands lighted. The Magistrates presented them with a Royal Canopy, and the Keys of the Town in a Silver Basin. The Duke of *Burgundy* declined to make use of the former, but having taken the Keys, returned them to the Magistrates, by whom these Princes were conducted to the Cathedral Church of the City; the Bells, call'd the Bells of Triumph, ringing all this while; the Streets through which they pass'd, were finely hung with Arras and Tapestry, and the Burghers in their Arms were drawn up on both sides the Streets, and the Garriſon of the Town in the Great Place. The Bishop with his Chapter received the young Princes with all imaginable Respect, and having conducted them to their Places, that Prelate officiated in the Maſs that was Sung upon this occaſion. Afterwards *Te Deum* was Sung in the uſual manner, and the Princes were brought to the Town-Houſe, where there was a noble Entertainment prepared for them, and Bonfires and other Illuminations concluded the Day. I have been prolix in this Deſcription, to ſatisfie the World, that the *French* Generals were not altogether idle whiſt the Confederates were concerting proper Methods to raiſe Magazines, to obtain the neceſſary Proviſions to lay Sieges to Towns, and to harraſs their Enemies Country, with all the dreadful Calamities of War.

Much about this time, a Detachment from the *French* Army at *Lovendegem*, under the Command of the Chevalier *de Roſen*, made an Irruption into the *Dutch Flanders*, but they perform'd little more than the other part of the Army commanded by the Duke of *Burgundy*, they fell in upon the *Dutch* Lines of *Bireliet*, which they took, having no manner of Guard to defend them. Lieutenant General *Fagel*, and Major General *Murray* retiring before them for want of a ſufficient Force to make a ſtand, their Troops not amounting to more than 3 Battalions and a Regiment of Dragoons. The *French* advanc'd, and fell into the Iſland of *Casandt*, where they plundered and burnt about 100 Houſes belonging to the Country Farmers and Boors, and beſides, obliged the Inhabitants of the Iſland to pay Contributions. Thus they finiſh'd their Expedition without doing any thing farther material, and retired back again to joyn their main Body, which by this time was awak'd out of their Lethargy by the Confederate's Cannon at the Siege of *Lille*.

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*In Flanders, in the Year 1708.*

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The Confederates having prepar'd all things necessary for the Siege of *Lille*, the Generals were Named who were to Command the same, and are as follows.

Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, Velt-Marshal of the Empire,

And under him,

For the <i>Imperialists</i> , Count <i>Slick</i> .	The Prince of <i>Wirtemberg</i> .
For <i>Holland</i> , the Hereditary Prince.	Count <i>Nassau Weilburgh</i> .
For the <i>Hessians</i> , General <i>Spiegel</i> .	Prince of <i>Orange</i> .

Lieutenants General,

Count of *Fells*.  
*Falkenstein*.  
*Efferen*.  
*Wood*.  
*Harro*.

*Petendorf*.  
*Sparr*.  
Pr. of *Holstein Beck*.  
*Willekin*.

Majors General,

*Leifins*.  
Count *Bethlem*.  
Count *Wittenstein*.  
*De Vennes*.  
Prince *D' Auvergne*.  
*Weissenfelst*.

*Terkin Baeto*.  
*Volkershoven*.  
*Zobel*.  
*Coillard*.  
*Zoutland*.  
*Sacken*.

Brigadeers, and Majors of Brigades,

*Keppenbeck the Son*.  
*Poleren*.  
*Kellim*.  
*Hagedorn*.  
*Kallestein*.

*Wassenaer*.  
*Keppel*.  
*Boillet*.  
*Temple*.  
*Du Trouzel*.

*Mymer*.  
*Stapel*.  
*D'hurch*.  
*Witney*.  
*Sitto*.

The Directors of the Trenches,

Messieurs du *Rocque*, de *Mey*, *Longerheim*, *Hortel*, and  
*Coehorn*, the Son of the famous General *Coehorn*.

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The Siege was to be carried on with 50 Batallions, viz. with 6 of *Imperialists*, 9 of *Palatines*, 5 of *Hesse*, and 30 from the Grand Army; and least any false step should be made, or wrong Measures taken, Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* order'd a Memorial to be made of such Orders as were to be observed by the Generals and Officers commanding under him during the Siege, which being an Original and transmitted to us by a very good Hand, is here presented to the Reader.

*A Memorial concerning the Attacks intended to be made upon Lille, August 20th, 1708:*

I. **T**HAT ten Batallions entire should mount the Trenches at a time, without making any Detachment; that out of each of the other 40 Batallions remaining, shall be detach'd 100 Men, the whole number amounting to 4000, shall be employed to carry on the Works, as there shall be occasion.

II. That the *Imperialists*, *Palatines* and *Hessians* shall mount the Trenches two Nights successively, and that a Lieutenant General and 2 Majors General shall Guard the same with 10 Batallions, and 4000 Men shall be employed in the Works.

III. The Trenches shall be reliev'd at 4 of the Clock in the Afternoon; to the end, that the relieving Officer, during the day time, may be at leisure to visit the Works, which are made, and to consider of such that are to be made in the Night.

IV. That 30 Batallions detach'd from the Grand Army shall be three following Nights together in the Trenches, with this difference, that when this shall happen, there be one Lieutenant General, one Major General and two Brigadeers in the Trenches, with the same number of Batallions and Workmen, as if the *Imperialists* and other Troops of the Allies had mounted the same.

V. The Attacks in extraordinary Cases shall be made by the Grenadiers and Detachments from the Army.

VI. That

VI. If necessity requires that some Batallions are to be placed at the foot of the Trenches, they shall be such Batallions which have been 24 Hours out of the Trenches.

VII. According to the Terrain, there shall be posted some Horses behind the Espaulements at the bottom of the Trenches of Reserve, either on the Right Hand, or on the Left, or on both, according as the Generals shall think convenient for the Service.

VIII. The Major of the Trenches shall be charged with the Care of the Trenches, and shall take heed that the General who enters into the Trenches may find every thing ready to push on the Works, as they shall be drawn by the Directors.

IX. The Directors of the Approaches are to make a Memorial every Morning of what they shall want at Night, whereof the Major of the Trenches is to be acquainted in due time, and especially before the Trenches be relieved, in order to have time to fix every thing in a readiness.

X. The Fascines and Gabions shall be brought to the foot of the Trenches for the Commissary of the Fascines, to whom there shall be allow'd a hundred Carts at least, to enable him to provide the necessary Fascines, Gabions, &c.

XI. The Fascines shall be brought by the Workmen as far as the head of the Trenches.

XII. The Collonel and Officers of the Artillery shall be charged to make the Batteries according to the Orders of the Directors of the Approaches, either to destroy the Defences or to make Breaches.

XIII. The Miners, before they be fix'd to the Works, shall be made use of in the Sap.

XIV. The Workmen shall be commanded by two Lieutenant Collonels and two Majors, and for every 150 Men, one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign and four Sergeants.



XV. The Major General which is to relieve the Trenches, shall go in the Morning with the Majors of the Regiments into the Trenches, to examine the situation thereof, and to inform themselves of the Batallions, which they are to relieve, and to make inspection into every thing.

XVI. The Officers are immediately to perform whatever the Directors of the Trenches shall require. If it be to make an Attack in haste, they shall give notice to the General of the Trenches afterwards; but if it be an Affair which is not in haste, the Officers and Directors shall give notice to the General before hand.

The Confederates having prepar'd every thing ready for the Siege of *Lille*, opened the Trenches against that Town the 22d of *August*, N. S. between 7 and 8 in the Evening, they broke Ground on the Right and the Left of the Lower *Deule*, under the Direction of Monsieur *de Rocque* and Monsieur *du Mey*, chief Engineers. Four thousand Workmen were commanded for this Service, cover'd by 10 Batallions of the *Imperial*, *Palatine* and *Hessian* Troops, commanded by Lieutenant General *Wilks* and Major Gen. *Volkershoven*. Ten Batallions and 600 Horse were ready to sustain them, but there was no occasion, for the Trenches were opened with so good Success, that the Allies had above two Hours time to cover themselves, before the Enemy perceived they had been at Work. They then made a very great fire from the Town, but with so little Success, that the Allies lost only three Men upon that Occasion. The 23d, Lieutenant General *Petensdorf*, in the Service of the Elector *Palatine*, reliev'd Lieutenant General *Wilks*, with the Majors General *Lede* and *Zobel* and four *Imperial* and six *Hessian* Batallions, with 1000 Workmen, and then the Works were carried on with a great deal of Success. A Battery of three Pieces of Cannon was erected on a rising Ground near a Mill, to dislodge the Enemy from the Chappel of *St. Magdalen*, which they had Fortify'd. They prepar'd also a Battery of 50 Pieces of Cannon, where we had six Men killed and ten wounded; but Lieutenant General *Bettensdorf* going from one of the Attacks to the other, and missing the right way, had the misfortune to be taken Prisoner, and carried into the Town. The Night between the 24th and 25th of the same Month

Month, the Disposition of the Attacks were somewhat alter'd, and Lieutenant General *Sparr* with Major General *Collier*, and the Brigadeers *Wassenaar* and *Keppel*, relieved the Trenches with the Battallions of *Godfrey* and *Ingoldsby*, 2 *Prussians*, the *Danish* Guards, and the Battallions of *Orange*, *Bellen*, *Swartz* and *May*. The 25th at Night 300 Grenadiers were commanded to attack the Chappel of *St. Magdalen*, wherein the Enemy had 120 Grenadiers commanded by 2 Captains and some Subaltern Officers, who having lost 16 of their Men and 1 of their Captains, surrender'd. We had in that Action about 25 or 30 Men killed and wounded, and amongst them some Officers; and Monsieur *du Mey*, Director of one of the Attacks, received a small Contusion. We carried on a Line to that Chappel, and work'd on a new Battery near the Lower *Deule*. The 26th, the Trenches were relieved by the Prince of *Holstein Beck* Lieutenant General, Major General *Zouland*, and the Brigadeers *Boisset* and *Temple*, with the Battallions of *Lalo*, *Boisset*, *Varenne*, *Melville*, *Dutch* Guards, *Orange*, *Idsinga*, Prince *Maximillian* of *Hesse*, and *Mettrach*, which perfected the Communication to the Chappel aforesaid, and drew a Parallel of 200 Paces. The Enemy observing that this Line was near their Works, set a Wind-mill on fire, that they had fill'd with Straw, which giving an extraordinary light, we were obliged for 2 or 3 Hours to discontinue our Works in the Trenches, because our Men would have been too much exposed. They made a terrible fire all the Night long, yet we had but 11 Men kill'd.

We planted all our Cannon except 17 Pieces, on the three Batteries we had erected between the Gates of *Magdeleine* and *St Maurice*. The Night between the 26th and 27th, Lieutenant General *Spaar* relieved the Trenches with the Battallions of *Primrose*, *Wirtemberg*, *Oels*, *Anhalt*, *Anhalt Zerbst*, *Stal Meyster*, *Delsupeche*, *May*, *Metral*, *Smish*, *Hebron*, and *Rechteren*; but just before the relieving thereof the Enemy made a Salley with almost all their Grenadiers, and 2 Squadrons of Dragoons, and storm'd with so much vigour the Chappel we had taken from them, that they retook that Post. A Lieutenant of the *Dutch* Guards, with 100 Men who defended the same, made a stout resistance, but having lost half their number, and the commanding Officer being shot thro' the Body with a Musket Ball, they were obliged to retire. The Prince of *Nassau*, who was at that time in the Trenches, commanded immediately two Battallions to advance for the retaking that

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that Post, but the Troops who had possess'd themselves thereof immediately retired, without pretending to make any defence, having kept the same no longer than a quarter of an hour, and did us no other damage than the filling up some of our Works near the Chappel, which were repaired again the same day. This Morning about 7 a Clock we begun to salute the Town with 50 Pieces of Cannon, 20 Mortars and 6 Hauwitzers, with so good Success that we beat down one of the Batteries of the Enemy. Prince *Eugene* fir'd the first Piece of Cannon on the Right, and the Prince of *Nassau* did the like on the Left. Nothing material happen'd the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> past; in the Evening of that day the Trenches were relieved by the *Imperial* Generals with the usual number of Battalions. The 29<sup>th</sup>, about 3 in the Morning our Troops storm'd a fortify'd Mill on the Right near the Gate of *St. Andrew*, with 300 Grenadiers, beat the Enemy from that Post, and took 12 or 15 Prisoners and 40 Grenadiers that were therein, who were either kill'd or wounded. The Enemy made then so terrible a Fire from the Ramparts, that our Men were obliged to quit that Post, of which the Enemy retook possession, with 2 Battalions that Sally'd out of the Cover'd Way. Our Troops in the Trenches seeing so great a number of Men come out of their Works, imagin'd they design'd to undertake something extraordinary, and march'd out of the Trenches to attack them, but there happen'd no Action. The 29<sup>th</sup> in the Night, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* reliev'd the Trenches, and 2400 Workmen were employed all the Night to carry on our Approaches, and were relieved the next Morning by 1700 others. The same Night 300 Grenadiers were commanded to retake the Mill before the Gate of *St. Andrew*, but the Enemy set it on fire, and then abandon'd the Post; whereupon we drew a Parallel of 400 Paces, which is to have a Communication with the Left by means of the Bridge, which is to be laid on the River betwixt the 2 Attacks. We also erected a Battery of 4 Pieces of Cannon, to break down the Defences of the Hornwork, at the Attack of the Right, and to favour our intended Lodgment on the Counterscarp. We carried on our Trenches on the Left within 60 Paces of the Saillant Angle of another Counterscarp of the Hornwork. The Night between the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Lieutenant General *Sparr*, with Major General *Coll'er*, and the Brigadeers *Sir Richard Temple* and *du Troussel*, relieved the Trenches, and a Parallel of 500 Paces was drawn on the Right, which began within 150 Paces of the two Tenailes that



that are on the *Denle*. We carried on the Sap on the Left 100 Paces forwards, and then drew a Trench of 200 Paces towards the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp of the Hornwork, and advanced within 40 Paces of the same. We raised another Battery of eight Pieces of Cannon to ruin the Ravelins, which are over against the Places where our Forces were making a Breach. We had few Men kill'd that Night, but in that small number was an Engineer, the Son of Colonel *Bringues*, a young Gentleman of great hopes, who was extremely regretted. The Night between the 31st of *August* and the 1st of *September*, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* relieved the Trenches, and the second Parallel was carried on to the River. Each Battallion was ordered to carry Stones near the Batteries, to throw the same with our Mortars into the Enemies Works, which had a more terrible Effect than the Bombs. The Night between the 1st and 2d of the same Month, the Imperialists relieved the Trenches, and we carried on the Sap towards the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp of the Hornwork within 50 Paces of the Palissadoes. We perfected our Works on the Left, and carried on a Trench towards the Cover'd-way of the Gate of *Magdaleine*. A vast quantity of Fascines and Gabions were got in a readiness for making our Lodgment on the Counterscarp. Deserters about this time reported, that the Breach was very wide, and that the Ditch was almost filled up with the Ruins of the Walls. They added, that Monsieur *de Boufflers* foreseeing that the Town would soon fall into the hands of the Confederates, had ordered several of the largest Pieces of Cannon to be removed into the Cittadel belonging to the Town. The Night between the 2d and 3d, the Trenches were relieved by 11 Battallions; the Parallels were perfected, as were also the Sap against the Counterscarp of the two Hornworks, which was carried on within 40 Paces of the Angle. The 4th, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* relieved the Trenches, as did Lieutenant General *Sparr* the next Day, and the Approaches were carried on with so much Success, that it was judged the Counterscarp would be stormed the same Evening or the next Day; and the necessary Dispositions were made to come at the Breaches, if possible. The Works at this time were so far advanced, and the Soldiers on both sides so near one another, that it frequently happen'd, that the Fascines and Gabions were set on fire by the Besieged's making use of their Arms. Nothing happen'd worthy of Notice for the

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two succeeding Nights, that is, till the 7th in the Evening, at which time was the Storm of the Counterscarp. Before I give an Account of which, I shall return to the Grand Armies, and recite as briefly as I can, what pass'd on both sides worthy taking notice of.

On the 18th of the preceding Month, after several Marches and Countermarches, in which nothing of moment occurred, the Duke of *Marlborough* being encamp'd at *Amongies*, detach'd the Earl of *Athlone* with 1500 Horse, to observe the Motions of the Enemy. That General advanc'd towards *Len*, and his Vanguard meeting with 100 Horse detach'd from the Army of the Duke of *Berwick*, they charged them with so much vigour, that they run away, and we took 30 Prisoners. The same Day the Army of the Duke of *Vandome* advanc'd to *Ninove*, and the Duke of *Berwick* to *Enghien*, having left his Baggage behind the *Hafne* near *Mons*. We were assur'd that Day that the Enemy left 5 Batallions and 3 Squadrons in *Bruges* and 12 Batallions and 7 Squadrons in *Ghent*. The two French Armies march'd towards *Lessines* the 29th, and joyned there, and we had Advice that all their Troops made then 208 Squadrons and 126 Batallions. Upon those Marches, the Duke of *Marlborough* thought fit to repass the *Scheld* and encamp'd at *Helchin*, from whence we march'd the 31st past in the Afternoon to *Templeuve*, and encamp'd our Right to *Willem*, and our Left to *Pont a Chin*. The 1st instant we marched in two Columns by our Right, and pass'd the *Marcq* at *Forest*. A Brigade of Foot which incamp'd amongst the Horse, was left for the Rear under the Count *Nassau Woudenbergh*, which was reinforced with 2 other Batallions and a Detachment of Horse. We encamped that Night our Right to *Pont a Tressin*, having the *Marcq* before us. My Lord Duke took up his Quarters at *Peronne*, and Monsieur the Velt Marechal at *Sangrén*. As soon as the Forces were got into the Camp, his Grace went to the Quarters of Prince *Eugene* to confer with him, and the Army received Orders to Forage beyond the *Marcq*, and gather as much Forage as ever they could. The 2d, my Lord Duke, Prince *Eugene*, Monsieur *d' Auverquerque*, and other Generals, went to view the Country and what Ground was most convenient to post our Army in, in case the French should attempt to relieve *Lille*. The Imperial Troops that were to come to joyn us, in case there was any likelihood of an Action, were to form the Right Line. The same Day the Enemy begun to pass

pass the *Scheld* in 5 Columns below and above *Tournay*. The 3d they march'd in 4 Columns along the Causey between *Lille* and *Tournay*, but being come to *Camphin*, they turned to their Left and marched to *Orchiers*, and as they marched through that Plain, we could plainly discover them from our Camp. It was judged from their Motions, that they designed to turn up to the Head of the *Marcq*, to come at us without being obliged to pass any River. The 3d, the Quarter-Masters of the Army went to mark the Ground each Regiment was to take up between the Mill of *Noyelles* and the Village of *Fretin*, and all the Baggage was sent into the Intrenchments before *Lille*. The Enemy lay that Night on their Arms near *Orchiers*, and the 4th in the Morning continued their Rout towards *Mons en Pevale*, whereupon our Army march'd the same Day about 10 a Clock to the Ground mark'd out for them the Day before, and were joyn'd in the Evening by Prince *Eugene* with 26 Batallions and 36 Squadrons, which were posted in the Right of the Line with the *Prussian* Troops; the *English* and *Danes* were on the Left, and the *Dutch* and *Hannoverians* in the Center. All the Cavalry was drawn up in two Lines, and the Infantry form'd a third Line behind the Horse. This Disposition was thought necessary in a Plain; and to cover the Flanks of the Army, 20 Batallions were posted on each Wing, and behind them 20 Squadrons as a Body of Reserve to be employ'd where it was thought necessary. Count *Nassau Wondenburgh*, with his Brigade, was posted in the Village of *Entiere*, which was at the Head of the Army, and whereby the Enemy were to come to us. We continu'd in that Posture all the Night between the 4th and 5th, having placed our Artillery in the Front, in the Places through which it was believ'd the Enemy might Attack us. We were informed that the Head of their Army was come to *Polempin*, within a League of our Army, which Place is situated in the Opening between the *Marcq* and the *Deule*; we were informed also, that they were joyn'd by all their Field Artillery, and 30 Pieces of Cannon from *Doway*. This made us believe, that they would really attack us the next Morning; and we were so near, that we could hear the beating of their Drums, and concluded thereby, that they were all Night in Motion. Our Generals repaired by Break of Day the 5th, to their respective Posts, to be ready to receive the Enemy; and Lieutenant General *Fagel* having march'd with almost an incredible speed, joyn'd us that Morning with 7 Batallions



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tallions and 7 Squadrons. King *Augustus* and the Landgrave of *Hesse Cassel*, came the 4th to our Camp intending to be Volunteers in the Engagement. We continu'd till 10 a Clock in Order of Battel, but the Generals seeing the *French* did not advance, order'd the Tents to be pitch'd again, and the Detachment of Prince *Eugene* return'd to the Camp before *Lille*, except some *Imperial* and *Hessian* Squadrons. The Generals concluding that the Enemy had no other Design than to give us frequent Allarms to retard the Siege of *Lille*, and streighten us in our Forage, without venturing a Fight, 100 Men out of each Batallion were order'd to cast up an Intrenchment from the Mill of *Noyelle* to the Mill of *Fretin*. The Village of *Seclin* lyes in the Front of our Line, and is this Place through which the Enemy may most conveniently come at us. These Intrenchments will cover our Army against all Surprise.

Thus all the Menaces of the *French* vanished into Air, and their Motions only tending to amuse the Confederates, our Generals thought fit to storm the Counterscarp of *Lille*, which had been delayed by the Movements which the *French* made, as hath been already describ'd.

The 7th in the Morning, they made the necessary Dispositions for storming the Counterscarp that Evening, and lodging themselves upon the same. The Trenches were relieved in the Evening by Lieutenant General *Wilks*, with two Majors General and 10 *Imperial* or *Palatine* Batallions, and the said Lieutenant General commanded the Attack of the Counterscarp, for which were made the following Dispositions. Eight hundred Grenadeers, supported by the same number of Fuziliers, with 2000 Workmen, and 30 Carpenters, were commanded for the Left; and besides the Troops in the Trenches, 2000 Men detach'd from the Grand Army under the Command of Brigadier *Sabin*, were employed in the Attack. Our Batteries made in the meantime a most terrible Fire, and about 8 of the Clock, the Signal being given, our Artillery made a general Discharge, and then our Troops design'd for the Attack on the Left, march'd out of the Trenches with an unparallel'd Intrepidity, and an admirable Order, and went directly to the Palisadoes, from whence they beat the Enemy; and several of our Men leaping into the Cover'd-way, put to the Sword all the *French* they found therein, except four Officers and some few Soldiers, who were taken Prisoners. Whilst our Troops were making their Lodgment near the

the Palisadoes, the Enemy made a dreadful Fire upon them, and sprung 3 Mines under the Cover'd-way, whereby we lost many Men. Our Troops on the Right attack'd the Enemy with the like Courage and Success, and lodg'd themselves on the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp of the Hornwork, and on the top of the Ditch of the Tenailles, which are on the Banks of the *Deule* between the 2 Attacks. Our Men on the Left lodg'd themselves likewise on the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp of the Hornwork and also on the Angle of the Tenailles.

As this Success was very acceptable to the Allies, so the Prince of *Orange* took care to communicate it to the States, which he did in the following Letter.

*High and Mighty Lords,*

THE Dispositions for the Attack of the Counterscarp were made some Days ago, but by Reason of the Neighbourhood of the *French* Army, and the great Detachment made for the Grand Army, the Attack was put off till last Night, when we received a Reinforcement from the Grand Army of 700 Grenadiers, the like Number of Fusileers, and 600 Workmen. Eight hundred Grenadiers, supported by the like Number of Fusileers, 30 Carpenters and 2000 Workmen, were commanded for the Attack of the Right, between the Lower *Deule* and the Gate of *St. Andrew*, under the Direction of the *Sieur la Racque*; and 1600 Grenadiers, supported by the like numbers of Fusileers, 30 Carpenters and 2000 Workmen, were commanded for the Attack of the Left, between the said River and the Gate of *Magdalen*, under the Direction of the *Sieur du Mey*. Our Batteries made a continual Fire before the Attack on all the Bastions, to disturb the Enemy; and after the Signal of 3 Guns and a General Discharge of all the Artillery, we made our Attack about 8 in the Evening, with so much Order and Courage on the part of the Officers and Soldiers, that the Counterscarp was taken in a short time, notwithstanding it was defended by 200 Men of each Regiment in the Garrison; and we lodg'd our selves on the Cover'd-way. But the Enemy made such a terrible fire from their Outworks, with their Cannon, Mortars and small Arms, and sprung three Mines in the Cover'd-way, that we lost many Men. I cannot give your High Mightinesses an exact account of the Slain and Wounded,

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‘ but they cannot be much less than 1000 Men. I shall cause a  
 ‘ List to be made, and send it to your High Mightinesses by the  
 ‘ next Post. The further necessary Dispositions are made to car-  
 ‘ ry on the Siege with all possible Vigour ; and I hope God will  
 ‘ be pleased to bless the same.

I am, &c.

*From the Army before*  
 Lille, Sept. 30. 1708.

*J. W. F. Prince of Orange and Nassau*

The making of these Lodgments very much encouraged our Army to go forwards with the Siege, tho they found many more Difficulties than were at first apprehended, and gave them a Prospect of good Success, which at length they attained by their unparallel'd Courage, Industry and Patience. The Publick was possess'd, during the time of the Siege, with an Opinion, that Towns might be taken, tho' never so strong, in a short space ; and gave for instance, the famous Attacks of *Buda*, *Mayence* and *Namur*, which Cities, tho' they were scarce (if at all) inferiour in Strength of Garrisons or Fortifications to *Lille*, yet in a reasonable space of time submitted to the Troops that Besieged them. But these Gentlemen never considered how Profuse of Blood the Duke of *Lorain* and King *William* were upon these Occasions ; how many brave Mens Lives were sacrific'd before the Walls of those Cities, which might have been spared, had the Generals used the Sword less, and apply'd themselves more to the Sap ; but perchance they had Reasons of State for their Actions, which our General Officers are unacquainted with, who must be own'd to have trod the Paths to Victory after a manner much more Humane, Just and Tender ; and what they lost by the unavoidable Delays of the Methods they used, they abundantly made amends for by the Preservation of their Soldiers.

The Storm of the Counterscarp being over, our Troops endeavour'd to perfect their Works with all imaginable Application, and made a great Progress therein the next Day. The 8th and 9th, the Prince of *Holstein-beck*, the Major-General *Zoutland*, and the Brigadeers Sir *Richard Temple* and *du Troussel* relieved the Trenches with the *English* Battallions of *Godfrey* and *Ingoldsby* and 10 others, and the Lodgments were perfected on the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp of the Hornworks and the



the Tenailles. We erected on the Left a Battery of 2 Pieces of Cannon, to ruin the Tenaille, and made a Hole into the Cover'd-way, which was perfected the 9th at Night. We erected another Battery of 3 Pieces of Cannon on the Right to ruin entirely the Hornwork, and we made a Descent into 2 Places in the Cover'd-way on that side. The Night between the 9th and 10th, Lieutenant General *Sparr*, Major General *Collyer*, and the the Brigadeers *Wassenaer* and *Keppel*, with the Battalions of *Lalo*, *Sabin*, and 8 others, relieved the Trenches. We continued to perfect the Communication between the Works along the Palisadoes. Last Night the Enemy sally'd out with a design to nail the Cannon on our Batteries that are on the Glacis, and ruin our Works; but we repulsed them with considerable loss, and we continued our Preparations for enlarging the Breaches, in order to facilitate the Storm.

The Night between the 10th and 11th instant, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* relieved the Trenches with 10 Battalions, and continued to secure the Works and the Communication between our Lodgments along the Palisadoes. We planted 3 Pieces of Cannon on a Battery to ruin the remaining part of the Hornwork on our Right. We carried on our Approaches on the Left with as good Success, in order to make a Descent into the Ditch. The Night between the 11th and 12th, the Imperialists relieved the Trenches, but there was little Progress made that Day in the Siege, because an Adjutant came from the Grand Army to acquaint Prince *Eugene*, that the *French* were advanc'd within sight of the Intrenchments, and seem'd to have a design to Attack them; whereupon his Highness marched with 15 Battalions and the Cavalry, to reinforce the Duke of *Marlborough*. Last Night the *Imperialists* relieved the Trenches, and this Day we were hard at work to perfect our Works, and make the necessary Dispositions for a General Storm, which was put off for some Days, to make the Breaches so wide, that we might Attack the Body of the Place with a greater number of Troops than it was at first intended. We lost but very few Men, notwithstanding the prodigious fire the Garrison made from all their Works and Batteries.

Whilst thus our Troops did all that was possible to make themselves Masters of *Lille*, an Action happen'd in the Camp, in which, tho' no great numbers were kill'd, yet considering the Effects it had upon the Spirits of the *French*, it may be deem'd of great Moment

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ment to the Common Cause, and worthy of a particular Relation.

The Confederates were encamp'd at *Fretin*, where my Lord Duke of *Marlborough* had his Head Quarters. The *French* Foragers advanc'd within a quarter of a League of this Place, sustain'd by several Regiments: His Grace was at Dinner, when News was brought him of the Enemies Presumption, and Lieutenant General *Wood* happen'd to be at the Table. Upon the delivery of the Message, that Gentleman, who has signaliz'd himself for his Courage, as much as any Officer in the Service of *Great Britain*, express'd a great Impatience to drive the *French* back again to their Camp: To that purpose, he beg'd his Lordship's Permission to charge them with 2 Batallions only. His Grace consented to his Request, and commanded the Regiment of Sir *Richard Temple* and another *English* Batallion to attack the Enemy.

Our Troops march'd immediately, and fell upon the Enemy, whom they repuls'd as far as *Ennevelin*, where they had posted some Forces in a Castle, which is surrounded with two Ditches. Our Men endeavour'd to dislodge them from thence, and charg'd the *French* with a great deal of Bravery; but the Duke of *Vandome* caus'd all his Grenadeers and the *Piquet* of six Brigades which were encamp'd in the Front of his Army near *Pont a Marcq*, to support his Troops in the Castle aforesaid; whereupon our 2 Batallions retired, seeing they could not force that Post without Cannon, and without being joyn'd with all the Infantry of our Army, which was not thought convenient in the present Juncture. Our Troops thereupon made their Retreat in very good Order, and repuls'd several times the Enemy, tho they were at least four to one. We had about 120 Private Men kill'd and wounded, and 4 or 5 Officers, amongst whom was Captain *Higginson*, Captain of Grenadeers to Sir *Richard Temple*, a Gentleman infinitely regretted by the Batallion, and by all that the Honour of his Acquaintance. In him met most of the Qualifications requisite in a Soldier: He had Courage enough for the Post he enjoyed, which was given him by his Choice, when two other Commissions of the same Rank were vacant in the same Regiment; and tho' his Gallantry was so much as might have reasonably call'd his Prudence in question, yet he had a share of the latter, enough to have qualify'd him for a Post much superiour to that he dy'd in. He had an Art to make himself respected and lov'd by his Soldiers and Friends, to both of whom he was Civil and Generous.

Generous. His Conversation was Manly and Polite; and without dispute, had Providence permitted him a longer time to have lived and exerted those shining Qualities he was Master of, he would have raised himself to the highest Posts which Military Virtue or Civil Prudence could have confer'd upon his Merit. 'Tis impossible to express how much this Vigorous Action encouraged our Troops, and what a despicable Notion it gave them of the Enemy. The 9th and 10th, nothing considerable hapened in the Camp; but the next Morning the Duke of *Marlborough* had Advice, that the Enemies were in motion, and about 2 in the Afternoon we saw the Head of their Army, consisting of several Battallions and Squadrons, with their Workmen, who levell'd the Ground between them and our Intrenchments. Few Minutes after, their Troops advancing towards our Intrenchments in very good Order, which made us believe that they designed to attack us; whereupon 3 Guns were fired as a Signal for every Regiment of the Army to take their Post behind the Intrenchments. About half an Hour past Three, the Enemy began to Cannonade our Army with 10 or 12 Pieces of Cannon, and chiefly the Village of *Entieres*, which is before our great Intrenchment, which Village we have fortify'd with good Works. The Duke of *Marlborough*, who had foreseen that the Enemy would Attack that Post, had posted therein 2 Brigades, one *English* Commanded by Brigadier *Evans*, and the other *Dutch*, Commanded by Brigadier *Wertmuller*, with a sufficient Train of Artillery for its defence. Mean time an Officer was dispatch'd to Prince *Eugene*, to acquaint him with this News; and that Prince repair'd to us immediately with a great Detachment from his Army. Orders were likewise sent to the Earl of *Albemarle*, who was between *Menin* and *Oudenarde* with 30 Squadrons to Guard a Convoy from *Brussels*, to return to this Camp with all speed; and the 12th by Break of Day, his Lordship arrived with his Detachment. All necessary Dispositions were made for giving a warm Reception to the Enemy; and as it was expected they would Attack us the next Morning, the Army continued all the Night on their Arms, behind the Intrenchments; Prince *Eugene*, the Duke of *Marlborough*, and Monsieur the Velt Marechal d' *Auverquerque* continuing all that time in their respective Posts. The 12th, about half an Hour past Six in the Morning, the Enemy began again to Cannonade our Intrenchments with 30 or 40 Pieces of Cannon, most Twenty-four Pounders; as we judged by the Balls that fell into our  
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Camp, and we answer'd them from our Artillery placed on our Intrenchments, with good Success. We believed they were then in good Earnest; but finding our Mistake, the Troops were order'd to their Tents near the Intrenchments. This Morning we expected to be entertained with the like Musick as the Day before, having been informed, that the had in the Night prepar'd some other Batteries, but they have withdrawn their heavy Cannon and continue in the same Post. The Princes have their Quarters at *Pont a Marcq*. Prince *Eugene* is thereupon returned to Camp before *Lille*, with most of the Foot he had brought with him, and has taken his Quarters at *Lois*, to be near at hand to come back in case of need. As Deserters and Spies had unanimously reported, that the Enemy had resolv'd in a great Council of War held in the Presence of Monsieur *de Chamillard* the 10th instant to Attack our Intrenchments, our Soldiers were in great Expectation of a Fight, and no Words can express the Alacrity they shew'd, when they saw the Enemy in motion: But their Joys were groundless, the Enemy march'd towards *Ghent* and *Bruges*, and gave us leave to carry on the Siege of *Lille*, to which I shall now return.

The 11th in the Morning, the Mortar Battery on the Counterscarp, in the Front of the Counterguard, began to play. In the Evening the Trenches were reliev'd by Lieutenant General *Arnam*. Majors General *Volkershoven* and *Vickenback*, with 5 Battalions for each Attack. Major General *Volkershoven* in going into the Trenches received a slight Wound in the Breast. The Enemy made a small Salley on the Right, but were immediately repuls'd.

The 12th, about Nine in the Morning, while the Enemy were playing their Batteries against the Village of *Entires*, with greater warmth than they had done, the Besieged came out of the Town in great numbers, with 4 Colours, and attack'd the Trenches on the Left in 6 different Places, having at the same time another Body of Troops in the Cover'd way ready to sustain them; but before they could do any other Damage than the overturning 5 or 6 Gabions, they were engag'd by the next Battalions in the Trenches, and oblig'd to Retreat in great Disorder, having had above 60 Men kill'd, and among them several Officers, which they drew after them into their Works; on our side 14 Men were killed, and near 30 wounded. Lieutenant General *Arnam* continued this Night in the Trenches, which were relieved the

the Night between the 13th and 14th, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* relieved the Trenches, but the Works were not advanc'd very much, because the Troops which had joyn'd the Grand Army with Prince *Eugene*, were not return'd to their Posts; but they arriv'd the 14th, a little before Break of Day. The Night between the 14th and 15th, the Trenches were relieved by Lieutenant General *Sparr*, with 10 Batallions as usual, and we began that Night to work upon some Mines, in order to fill up the Ditch of the Tenaille, and they placed a great many Gabions on the Palisadoes. The Enemies made frequent Sallies with small Bodies of Men, on purpose to draw our Troops from the Trenches, and then to make a terrible fire upon them from the Ramparts. The 15th, Prince *Eugene* thought fit to alter the former Dispositions for relieving the Trenches, and order'd, that all the Lieutenant Generals of his Army should roll according to their turns; that one of them should mount the Trenches every Day with a Major General; that the former should take his Post at the Attack on the Left, and the latter on the Right, and that 12 Batallions, instead of 10, should mount the Trenches, viz. 5 *Imperialists*, *Palatines* or *Hessians*, and 7 detach'd from the Troops of the Prince of *Nassau*. Nothing considerable happen'd the 16th and 17th. The Night between the 17th and 18th, Lieutenant General *Wilks* relieved the Trenches with 12 Batallions, according to the last Orders of Prince *Eugene*, but our Men could not Storm the Tenaille and Horn-work as they intended, the Ditch not being fill'd up. The same Night, Director *du Mey* Attack'd with 50 Grenadeers and 50 Fuzileers, a Traverse in the Cover'd-way, from which we beat the Enemy with considerable Loss; but we could keep possession only of one of them; because of the great fire of the Enemy. We had about 40 Men kill'd and wounded. The Night between the 19th and 20th, Lieutenant General *Arnhem* relieved the Trenches, and all things were dispos'd for storming the Tenailles the next Day; and as the Besieged seem'd resolv'd to make a vigorous Defence, all imaginable Precautions were taken for succeeding in our Design, and that the Attack might be made with fresh Men, who yet might have a sufficient time to observe the Works which were to be storm'd, the Prince of *Holstein-beck* relieved the Trenches this Morning at Nine a Clock, whereas they used to be relieved at Night: Besides the 12 Batallions in the Trenches, a Detachment of Grenadeers were appointed for the

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Attack; but our Designs were prevented this Day, by the Enemy's throwing Artificial Fires into the Ditch, which burnt part of our Gallery, so that our Troops spent all the Night in repairing the Damage and perfecting the Bridges and Galleries over the Ditches. The 21st, Lieutenant General *Wilks*, Major General *Zobel*, and Brigadier *Temple* relieved the Trenches at Ten a Clock in the Morning, and the necessary Dispositions were made for storming the Works aforesaid. In order thereunto, 1100 Grenadeers, supported by 1200 Fuzileers, under the Command of a Collonel, a Lieutenant Collonel, and a Major, with 1700 Workmen, were ordered for each Attack under the Directions of the Generals in the Trenches. The Attack began between Six and Seven in the Evening, and was very hot, every Inch of Ground being disputed with a great deal of Obstinacy; but at last we made a good Lodgment on the Tenaille on the Right, and took a Place of Arms on the Counterscarp on the Left. This Action was near proving very fatal to Allies; for Prince *Eugene*, whose Presence was highly necessary to Animate our Soldiers, was wounded in the Forehead with a Musket-shot. The 22d, Lieutenant General *Sparr*, Major General *Zobel*, and Brigadier *du Troussel*, relieved the Trenches; and the Duke of *Marlborough* repair'd to Prince *Eugene's* Quarters to visit his Highness: He found him dress'd, and preparing to go Abroad; but at the instance of his Grace, he was perswaded to continue in his Chamber for 2 or 3 Days. In the mean time, the Duke of *Marlborough* went into the Trenches, visited the Works, and acted all what Prince *Eugene* would have done, had he not been hinder'd by his Wounds. Four hundred Grenadeers and 550 Fuzileers were to post themselves that Evening in the Tenaille on the Left; but the Grenadeers arriving too late, the Attack was put off. The 23d in the Morning, Lieutenant General *Wilks*, Major General *Collyer*, and Brigadier *Wassenaer*, relieved the Trenches, and had the Direction of the Attack. All things being in a readiness, the Duke of *Marlborough*, who was in the Trenches, caused a Signal to be given for the Storm to begin, which was carried on with all imaginable Success. Our Troops beat the Enemy quite from the Tenaille on the Left (that on the Right being taken the 21st at Night) and made a great Lodgments along the Cover'd-way, without any considerable Loss. We had some Engineers and Officers wounded. It was observed on this occasion, that the Enemy did not defend these Posts with the like Vigour



as they formerly exerted. The Day before, Major General *Cadogan* set out for *Ostend*, to view the Troops which were landed there from *England*, under the Command of Lieutenant General *Erle*, and to concert the necessary Measures for securing a great Convoy we expected from *Ostend*. The Major General return'd the 23d at Night, and the same Day the Troops posted near *Courtray* under Brigadier *Landsberg*, with 6 Battalions and 800 Horse advanced towards the Country of *Bruges*, between *Rousselaer* and *Thielt*. The 23d, Brigadier *Sterkenburg* with 10 Squadrons, and Brigadier *Elis* with 6 Battalions, were order'd to march and post themselves within some Miles of *Menin*, on the other side the *Lys*, in order to secure our Convoy, which I have just now taken notice of, and observe the Detachments the Enemy might make from *Ipres* for attacking the same. The Enemy's Army lay encamp'd between *Oudenarde* and *Tournay*, and cast up Intrenchments along the Banks of the *Scheld*, and planted Batteries thereon, with all imaginable Precautions for their Safety, and maintaining themselves; where, whilst they are fortifying, I shall go on with the Occurrences that happened in the Trenches before *Lille*.

The 24th at Night, one of our Bombs fell into a Magazine of Bombs in the Town, and did the Besieged a great deal of damage. The 25th, Lieutenant General *Sparr*, Major General *Feigenback*, and Brigadier *Boisset* relieved the Trenches with 12 Battalions, and they work'd all that Day and the Night following upon the Mines in the *Tenailles*, in order to blow up the Traverses that are before the Ravelin and the Lunette in the said *Tenailles*. We carried on likewise our Saps towards the great Breaches for discovering the Mines of the Enemy. The 26th, Lieutenant General *Arnhem*, Major General *Zobel*, and Brigadier *Temple*, with 12 Battalions, relieved the Trenches, and the Mines were much advanc'd on the Right Attack, and on the Left we likewise work'd on 2 Mines, to blow up the Traverses of the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp, over against the great Breach in the Body of the Place. These Works were continued the 27th and 28th, and nothing remarkable happen'd in the Trenches, but there was a great Alarm in the Camp, upon the following Occasion. The Siege having lasted already a great while, and the Garrison having sustained several Assaults, and made all the while a prodigious fire, they began to want Powder, and the Marshal *Boufflers* having signify'd the same to the

Duke of *Vandome*, he order'd the Chevalier de *Luxemburg* with 400 Horse for his Van-guard, 250 Horse Grenadeers, 2 Squadrons of Dragoons, 2 of *Burgundy*, 1 of *St. Agnan*, 2 of *Mortoville*, 2 of *Fontaine*, 1 of *Bretsch*, 2 of *Ternea*, and 2 of *Forcea-gue* to endeavour to supply the Besieged. Each Man had a Bag of 40 Pound weight of Powder behind him. They advanc'd the 28th at Night along the Cawsey from *Doway* to *Lille*, and were met by an Out-guard of 100 Horse, which Count *Schlick*, who had been encamp'd at *Pont a Tressin* with 30 Squadrons, commanded. These Out-guards challeng'd them, and they declared, That they belonged to our Grand Army, and were conducting some Prisoners to the Camp. A Subaltern Officer being advanc'd to Examine them, they thought it impossible to conceal themselves any longer, and advanc'd full Gallop along the Cawsey, and got into our Line of Circumvallation. Our Guard and Centinels having fired at them, the Camp in general took the Alarm, and the *Palatine* Dragoons of *Wittensheim* getting on Horse-back with an incredible speed, fell upon the Enemy and pursued them to the Barrier of the Town, which the Besieged would not at first open, and left their Men exposed, by which means a great many were killed, and several return'd back again into our Camp, and endeavour'd to save themselves by favour of the Night. Our Infantry fired at them, and the Powder they had in Bags behind them taking fire, a great many of them were killed with their Horses, which made a dismal Spectacle the next Day. The Enemies were divided into 2 Bodies, that which got into the Town consisted of about 700 Men, as appeared afterwards by the Number of those that went out upon the Capitulation; the other Party, with the Grenadeers and Dragoons kept at a distance, and retired with so much Precipitation, that they threw away their Powder. They had another Misfortune at *Pont a Rach* near *Doway*, for some of the Bags being unty'd, the Powder fell to the Ground, and was set on fire by their Horses striking against the Pavement. We took 7 Officers and 40 Troopers Prisoners; but can give very little account of what Numbers were kill'd and blown up in these Skirmishes, because most part that fell, dy'd near the Town in the Enemy's Works. The next day happen'd the Glorious Action of *Wynendale*, in which, tho no mighty Numbers fell of the *Freuch*, yet it was of the highest Consequence to the Allies, and occasioned the surrender of the important Fortrefs of *Lille*; on the other hand,

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if our Troops had been beaten, and the Waggon which they guarded, had been taken, all the Fruits of the Battle of *Oudenarde* had been lost, and *Lille* had remained in the Possession of Marshal *Boufflers*. I shall therefore set this Affair in as true a light as may be, to convince the World, that now neither the Glory of their Invincible Monarch, nor Interest, nor the loss of their Empire can oblige the *French* to perform their Duty, and act the Parts of Men of Honour.

Our Generals had sent several Detachments to cover the March of our Waggon, which were loaded with Ammunition for carrying on the Siege of *Lille*. The 27th of *September*, the Generals *Webb* and *Cadogan*, being then at *Tourout*, had Intelligence that Major *Savary* of the Regiment of *Gueham*, had taken possession of the Post of *Oudenburgh*; whereupon Brigadier *Landsberg* was sent thither with 600 Grenadeers under Colonel *Preston*, a Battalion of *Orkney* under Colonel *Hamilton*, and that of *Fune* commanded by Colonel *Wooght* to reinforce that Post. The 28th at Eight in the Morning, the Cavalry was sent to *Hooglede*, there to wait for the Convoy, except 150 Horse commanded by the Count *de Lottum*, who were sent the Night before to *Oudenburgh*, to carry Orders to the 2 Battalions and 600 Grenadeers to Guard the Waggon as far as *Koklaer*, and afterwards to rejoin the Infantry at *Tourout*. At Noon the Count *de Lottum* returned to *Tourout*, and reported, That having march'd as far as *Ieteghem*, he found an Advanc'd Guard of the Enemy, which he drove before him to the Heath, where he discovered 16 Squadrons, who mounted on Horseback with great Preceptation, on the Alarm given by the Advanc'd Guards; whereupon he judg'd it best to give Notice of what he had seen. Upon this Advice, all our Infantry, in number 22 Battalions, were ordered to march immediately, and the Count *de Lottum*, at the Head of 150 Horse, making the Van-guard, with the Quarter-Masters, and the rest of the Grenadeers who had not been detach'd, were commanded to gain *Ieteghem* by the Road of *Wynendale*. Our Van-guard arriving there, discovered the Enemy at the Entrance of the Heath; whereupon the Quarter-masters and the remaining Grenadeers were drawn up in Battalia, Major General *Webb* with the Count *de Nassau Wendenburgh*, at the Head of 150 Horse, advanc'd to view the Enemy; giving Order at the same time to the Regiments to advance with the utmost diligence upon the Plain, and to form themselves there in

Order



Order of Battle. The 150 Horse were left under the Command of the Count *de Lottum* at the entrance of the Heath to amuse the Enemy; and the more to perplex them, the Quarter-masters and Grenadeers were posted amongst the Bushes, contiguous to the Ground through which the Enemy must needs pass, as fast as our Regiments came out of the Defiles they were drawn up in by General *Webb* and the Count of *Nassau Woudenburg*, to fill up the Opening which is between the Wood of *Wynendale* and the Bushes on the other side, which make a sort of a Thicket. Hardly were 6 of our Batallions come upon that Ground, when the Enemy from 19 Pieces of Cannon, 9 of them of a Triple Bore, begun to Cannonade the 150 Horse plac'd in a Post a little more advanc'd then where the Batallions stood, who notwithstanding the great fire of the Enemy, stood firm, which produc'd the Effect our Generals expected from it, namely, the giving them time to draw up the Foot in order of Battel to fill up the Aperture and form 2 Lines. The Left Wing was extended far behind the forementioned Bushes, to hinder the Enemies passing there, and to cover our Flank. On the Flank of the Right in the Wood of *Wynendale* was plac'd the Regiment of *Henkelum*, and on the other side, the Regiment of the Hereditary Prince of *Hesse*, with Orders to keep themselves concealed, and not to fire till they could take the Enemy in Flank.

The Plottoons of Grenadeers were ordered to advance forty Paces before the Right and the Left with the like directions. The Quarter-masters were plac'd on the Left, in a Path leading through the formentioned Bushes. The Enemy having Cannonaded us three Hours, advanc'd against us on the Plain in Battalia, with 4 Lines of Foot and as many of Horse; whereupon the Count *de Lottum* was commanded to retire, and post his Horse 300 Paces behind our Foot, which he did in very good Order. The Enemy continued their March upon us, in number 40 Batallions and 48 Squadrons. The General observing that the Enemy filed off on their Right, sent the Count of *Nassau Woudenburg* to observe them, and ordered thither the Regiment of *Grombkow* under the Command of Collonel *Beschefer*. Brigadier *Eltz* arrived on the Right, with the Regiments of the Rear-guard, which he posted in the Wood of *Wynendale*. Half a quarter of an Hour before the Fight began, the 2 Batallions and 600 Grenadeers, who had been detach'd under Brigadier *Landsberg* rejoyn'd us, and form'd a third Line. That Brigadier

deer had met by accident near *Kokelaer* our Soldiers Wives all in Tears, and was thereupon advised by the Collonels *Preston*, *Hamilton* and *Wooght*, to hasten to our Assistance. Presently after the forming of our third Line, the Enemy began the Attack, and advanced within 15 Paces of the Batallions posted on the Flank of our Right, who had lain hid according to the General's order, but then did such Execution, that the Enemy's Left Wing fell into disorder and mixt with their Right, which receiv'd from the Regiment of *Grombkow* posted on our Flank on the Left, at much the same distance, a very terrible salute, that put them all into disorder. However, they return'd to the Charge, and push'd two of our Batallions; but the *Swiss* Regiment of *Albemarle*, commanded by Monsieur *Hirtzel*, advanc'd against their Horse, who endeavour'd to break into them, and by their vigorous Resistance gave time to the General, and the Count of *Nassau Woudenburg*, to bring up the Regiments of *Berendorf* and *Lyndeboum* into the place of those who had been push'd from their Ground, which was done very soon. In the mean time the Enemy, supported by so many Lines, made a second Effort to penetrate, but not one of our Batallions stir'd, unless to advance some Paces. The General hinder'd them from pressing on to the pursuit; to the end, that the Flanks might continue to fire with the same Advantage they did formerly. His foresight had all the Success that could be wished, for the 2 Regiments and the Grenadeers making a continual fire, oblig'd the Enemy's 2 Wings to fall into their Centre, and to retire in great Disorder. All that their Officers could do to make them turn again, was to no purpose; and they contented themselves to make a distant fire at our Lines, and our Men answer'd by Plottoons, with the same exact Order as if they had been exercising. Major General *Cadogan*, who arrived soon after the Fight was done, offer'd to charge the Enemy during the Disorder they were in, with 2 Squadrons, which he had brought along with him, but it was not thought adviseable to expose so small a Party of Men to such a superiour number of the Enemy, who had order'd all their Cavalry to advance, to cover their Retreat. The Fight was very fierce, and lasted almost 2 Hours. We had 912 Officers and Soldiers kill'd and wounded. The Enemy, according to the Report of Prisoners, which was confirm'd by Deserters, lost between 4 and 5000 Men, and retired in so great Confusion, that they left their Cannon in the Woods, and

and did not return to fetch them off till Eleven the next Morning, after they had learnt that our Troops had continued their March by Break of Day to conduct the Waggon by the way of *Rouffelaer*, after having caused all our wounded, and many of the Enemies to be carried off the Field of Battle. The Advantage we gained was the more surprizing; for that our Party amounted not to above 7000 Men, and the Enemies Army consisted of between 23 and 24000. The number of the kill'd and wounded of the Allies amounted, according to an exact List transmitted to the States General, to the following Numbers, viz. 3 Collonels and 2 Lieutenant Collonels wounded; 2 Majors kill'd, and 1 wounded; 4 Captains kill'd, 18 wounded; 4 Lieutenants kill'd, 36 wounded; 2 Ensigns kill'd, 22 wounded; 15 Sergeants kill'd, 38 wounded; 111 private Men kill'd, and 680 wounded. The Loss of the *French* is not so exactly known, but as they were numerous, and that they were repulsed and defeated, the same must be much greater than ours, and Letters from *Ghent* and *Bruges* made the Account of their kill'd and wounded to be 4000 Men.

The *Spaniards* complained that the *French* forsook them in this Action; the latter would have had the Post of Honour; but the Count *de Bergeick* wou'd not permit it. They lost several Officers of Quality; amongst whom were *Don Pantoja*, Nephew to Cardinal *Portocarero*, Monsieur *Grimaldi*, a Collonel, and Count *Cognigni*. In the number of their wounded, were the Marquis of *Carracioli*, Collonel of Horse; the Marquis *de Wemmel*, Brigadeer; the Marquis *de Aquaviva* Collonel, and the Baron *de Laeren* Brigadeer, Son-in-Law to the Count *de Bergeick*, who dyed soon after of his Wounds.

The Action of *Wynendale* broke the Heart of the *French* Army, their Generals found to their Costs, that the private Soldiers were perfectly dispirited; that they had lost their Ancient Gallantry, and had only half of the Character which *Cornelius Tacitus* gives of the *French* Nation, viz. That in the beginning of the Battle they are more than Men, and in the latter end of it less than Women. The Besieged also in *Lille* made but a very feint Defence, and forgot the Valour they had exerted at the beginning of the Siege; but our Troops carry'd their Works on with all the Vigour imaginable. The 1st of October, the Trenches were relieved by the Prince of *Holstein-beck*, Major General *Sacken*, and Sir *Richard Temple*, with 5 Batallions on the Right and 7 on the Left. In the



the Evening we made an Attack on the Saillant Angle of the Counterscarp before the great Breach on the Right, a Lodgment was made, and the Enemy was oblig'd to quit the Angle, and retire behind the Traverses on the Left. We begun to pass the Ditch of the Ravelin between the two Counterguards, and enlarg'd the Saps before the great Breach; we had about 50 Men kill'd and wounded upon this Attack. The 3d of the same Month we made another. That Day Lieutenant General *Wilks* continued in the Trenches and the usual Relief was brought on by Major General *Collyer* and Brigadier *Wassenaer*. The Dispositions being made for the Attacking the Ravelin on the Right. Three hundred Grenadeers were detach'd from his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough's* Army to joyn the Troops of the Siege appointed for this Service. The Attack begun about Noon, and we succeeded in it so well, that by half an Hour past One, our Men made a very good Lodgment on the Ravelin, and forced those of the Enemies Troops that were behind the Traverses, to leap into the Water, where most of them were either kill'd or drown'd, by which means we made our selves entire Masters of the 2 Counterguards and Ravelin, in which we likewise took 2 Pieces of Cannon. Here ended our Attacks, and from that time to the surrender of the Town, we only enlarged the Out-works and prepared things necessary for a general Storm, which the *French* gave out they were resolv'd to stand; but in this they luckily deceiv'd our Expectations, and the 21st of this Month, the Marshal *Boufflers* caused a *Chamade* to be beat, and Hostages were immediately exchanged. On our side went into the Town Brigadier *Troussel*, Collonel *Lallo*, Collonel *Sackendorf*, and a Major of the *Hannoverian* Troops: For the *French* came into the Trenches Brigadier *Mallebois*, two Collonels and a Major. The Articles of Capitulation were soon adjust'd, which contain'd in substance as follows. 'That the *French* should surrender up the Town, and all Stores of Cannon and Ammunition in it; That the Horse which had march'd to the Aid of the Besieged, with a Supply of Powder under the Command of the Chevalier de *Luxemburgh*, might have leave to retire out of the Town, as the Garrison might into the Castle, and that such of the Sick and Wounded as belonged to the *French*, might stay in the City upon their own Charge, with their Surgeons, till they were recover'd. 'Tis difficult to calculate truly the Loss on either side at this Siege; but if we may depend upon the Accounts given us by the Citizens of *Lille* since our entrance into that City, the *French* had about 12000 Men in Garrison, when our Army broke Ground against the Enemy, besides 3000 Burghers of *Lille*, which did constant Duty with the Regular Troops, and behaved themselves very well wherever they were in Action. Of the Garrison near 4000 Men retired into the Cittadel, and 'tis computed, that about 2000 more were Sick or Wounded at the time of the Capitulation; so that the *French* lost between 6 and 7000 Men upon a reasonable reckoning; and the Allies near 9000, a much less number than fell before *Namur*; but as I said before, the Sap saved our Soldiers, and as effectually did the Business, as tho we had thrown away the Lives of half the Army

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During

## The History of the Campaign

During this Siege, the Velt-Marshal d' *Auverquerque* dyed in the Camp, after having been Sickly for several Months before. His Death was infinitely regretted by the States General, and all the Allies. His Faith to the Common Cause was as indisputable, as his Prudence, Experience and Courage: He had serv'd 50 Campaigns without any Blot upon his Character, and had the uncommon Happiness of behaving himself with Honour in them all. At the Battel of *Seneff*, he sav'd the Life or Liberty of King *William*; and indeed by all his Actions, shew'd himself worthy of his high Post, and the Illustrious House of *Orange*, from whence he sprung. Upon the Capitulation of the Town, our Troops which serv'd in the Siege, were order'd to continue in their Incampments till our Works were levell'd, and the Town put in a better Posture of Defence. In the mean time the Prince of *Hesse* was sent with a strong Detachment of Horse and Foot into the Province of *Artois*, to drive the Enemy from the Post of *La Bassée*, to secure our Troops Quarter'd at *Armentieres*, and to get what Corn he could for the Subsistence of the Armies. Three or four days after we made our selves Masters of this Fortress, the *French* took a Post from the Allies, the Conquest of which they made as considerable as that of *Lille* in their unfaithful Mercuries and Gazetts. This was the Village of *Leffingen*, concerning the Reduction of which I shall here insert an Authentick and sincere Account.

The *French* finding all their Endeavours to raise the Siege of *Lille* unsuccessful, march'd away with their Army from so dangerous a Neighbour as the Duke of *Marlborough*, and retired to the Canal of *Bruges*. Some of their Troops possess'd themselves of the Forts of *La Bassée* and others, under the Marquis de *Hautefort* intrench'd themselves on the Banks of the *Scheld*. Their Intention for seizing the first and last of these Posts, was to cut off our Convoys, to hinder our Communication with *Ostend*; to secure their Acquisitions of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, and to make further Conquests in the *Spanish Flanders*, as time should serve. To embarrass these their Designs, the States apply'd themselves to her Majesty of *Great Britain*, and desired that the Troops on Board her Royal Fleet, might serve in *Flanders* upon this Occasion.

The Queen of *England* consented, and Lieutenant General *Erle* landed at *Ostend* with several *English* Batallions. Soon after his arrival there, he march'd out of the Town, and took possession of the Village of *Leffingen*. This he did upon good Grounds, for tho the Place was open, yet it lay very convenient to preserve a Communication with *Ostend* and our Army. Our Convoys from thence might pass safely to the Confederate Camp, and obstructed the *French* from having any Intercourse with *Newport*. This the Duke of *Vandome* was sensible of, and Lieutenant General *Erle* had no sooner got Possession of it, and caus'd some Works to be made in haste, and a few Trenches dug, but the *French* endeavour'd to regain it. The Confederates Garrison'd this Post at first with about 400 Men, most *English*, the rest were detach'd from the Troops that lay in *Ostend*. These the *French* besieged in form with 18000 Men and 6 half Gallies, having drowned the Country. They intrench'd themselves and threw up Batteries against the

Place

Place, as if it was one of the most regular Fortifications in the World, and used all other Efforts to become Masters of it. The Enemy having caused all the Country round to be laid under Water, but this Village, their own Camp, which was as advantageously situated, and a Cawsey which led thro this Village, with a few other small Hills which were above the Inundation, thought themselves secure in their Posts; but they found themselves mistaken, and Lieutenant General *Erle* caused a Place of Arms they had made upon the aforesaid Cawsey, a little distance from the Out-works, to be attack'd. Fifty Grenadeers of the *Dutch* Regiment of *Vanderbeck*, headed by a *Dutch* Captain, and 50 of the Regiment of *Caris*, commanded by Captain *Clare*, were ordered for this Service, supported by 200 *English*. Four Grenadeers were sent before, who pretending to be Deserters, amused the Enemy, whilst the rest of our Troops came up, who charging the *French*, drove them from that Post to a second Intrenchment, and seiz'd a Battery, where they continued some time. The Enemy lost 100 Men in this Attack, besides 40 taken Prisoners. A Grenadeer of ours had the good Fortune to take the Chevalier *de Croissey*, a Major General in the *French* Service, who offer'd the Soldier that took him 200 Pistoles and a Commission for his Liberty which he generously refused. On our side, Captain *Clare* was killed, the *Dutch* Captain with 2 Subalterns were wounded, and no more than 15 Private Men kill'd and wounded. The Enemy finding the Bravery of our Men, advanc'd by way of the Sap upon the the Cawsey; whereupon General *Erle* caused a new way to be made from our Camp to *Leffinghen*, which the Enemy perceiving, sent their half Gallies over the Inundation, which made a continual Fire both upon our Fort and the way to go thither, yet that Post was relieved with 2000 fresh Men, under the Command of Collonel *Coffield*. The Duke of *Vandome* and an Admiral did not think it below them to Command this Siege in Person; in which, perchance, they had miscarried, had the Orders General *Erle* gave for the Defence of the Post been justly complied with.

The Enemy landed, by means of their Ships, 7 or 8000 Men in a dry Place which it was impossible to drown; about Six in the Morning, they Attacked a Church-yard, wherein Collonel *Causfield*, who commanded in *Leffinghen*, had posted 150 Men, who made but little Resistance, and retired into a Redoubt near the Canal, which they surrendered, and were made Prisoners of War, as were the rest of the Garrison. The *French* lost in that Siege 5 or 600 Men, and some of our Officers distinguish'd themselves, as particular Collonel *Rapin* and Major *Duglasi*. After all the Blood and Labour which this Siege cost, the Enemy were little the better for their Conquest. 'Ts true, they open'd a Communication between *Newport*, *Bruges* and *Ghent*, where both Soldiers and Burghers very much wanted Salt, Bread and other Provisions; but *Lille* had already surrender'd, and these Efforts had been to much more purpose, if they had been made sooner with success. The Duke of *Marlborough*, during these Transactions was encamp'd at *Rouffelaer*, from whence he detach'd the Earl of *Stairs*, to provide Corn



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for the Army in the Districts of *Furnes* and *Dixmuyd*. Our Detachment had the good Fortune to surprize 4 Companies of *French* Grenadiers at a Bridge between *Dixmuyd* and *Newport*; on the other hand we met with the great Mortification to have a Squadron of the Regiment of *Katen*, one of *Heyden*, a Batallion of *Grombkow*, and another of Prince *Albert* undergo the same Fate: These Troops were all *Prussians*; and as Brave Men are generally more careless than the timorous, so these exceeded the bounds set them by my Lord *Stairs*, and were surrounded by the *French* in the Village of *Beauvorden* near *Furnes*.

They defended themselves for a while with a great deal of Gallantry; but finding that all the Avenues were closed, and that there was no possibility of forcing their way thro' the Enemies Troops, they surrendered Prisoners of War, having dearly sold the Advantage the *French* obtained over them. This small good Fortune of the *French* did not hinder my Lord *Stairs* from raising great Contributions of Corn and Meal in the Enemies Country, and more had been got together by his Troops, but that they were recalled to joyn the Duke of *Marlborough*. The Elector of *Bavaria* was by this time returned from an unactive Campaign in *Germany*; the March of Prince *Eugene* to the *Scheld*, and the great Detachments that Elector was forc'd to make for *Flanders*, disabled him from putting his Projects in Execution, and penetrating into *Bavaria*: So on the conclusion of the Summer in *Germany*, he returned to *Flanders* as Wise and as Happy as he set out from thence, unless the Disappointment he met with might lower his Disposition. Finding his Designs had miscarry'd in *Germany*, he was resolv'd to try what he could do in the *Spanish Flanders*, confiding either in the Treachery of the Inhabitants of the late Conquer'd Towns by the Allies, or hoping their Fears would soon reduce them to his Obedience. Big with these Thoughts, he collected an Army of between 20 and 30000 Men, and sat down before *Brussels* the 23d of November N. S. He immediately ordered the Governor Monsieur *Pascal* to be summoned, who returned this answer: 'That he was sorry he had not the Honour to be known to his Electoral Highness, but that he would defend his Government to the last Extremity, and act according to his Faith and Honour; whereupon the Enemy erected Batteries with all the Diligence imaginable against the Town, and the 26th of the same Month began to batter the City with their Cannon and Mortars. The Night between the 26th and 27th, the late Elector of *Bavaria* storm'd the Cover'd Way, and had near carry'd the same, but at length his Troops were repuls'd with a most terrible Slaughter. The Attack lasted 14 hours, during which time the Soldiers on both sides laid by their Fuzees, and fought Sword in hand. The Action ceased about 10 in the Morning, when the Elector drew off his Forces, with the loss of 800 Men killed besides the wounded. Lieutenant General *Pascal*, the Major Generals *Murray* and *Wrangel*, the Deputies of the States General, the Council of State, and the Officers and Soldiers, did all that could be wish'd or expected from them in their respective Stations. No Succours ever came more seasonably than those the Besieged received; they were at the point of surrendering when the Enemies retired, who if they

they had continued a few Hours longer before the Place, had most certainly made themselves Masters of the Town. The Duke of *Marlborough* being acquainted with this their Extremity, and solicited by the Deputies of the States, recalled the Troops which were in the District of *Furnes*, commanded by Lieutenant General *Fagel*, and the Detachment which was at *Lens* and *La Bassée*. The same day we received Advice, that the Dam which the Enemies had been making near *Gavre*, to stop the Course of the *Scheld*, was broke and carried away by the Rapidity of the Stream. This was very agreeable News, for had the Enemy succeeded in this Design, our passing the *Scheld* would have been attended with great difficulties. Our Army arrived the 25th of this Month in the Morning at *Harlebeck*, and continued there till 4 in the Afternoon, for giving time to Prince *Eugene* to come to the Place appointed. Our Measures were concerted thus: That the Prince of *Savoy's* Army should pass the River between *Escanaffs* and *Hauterive*; the Duke of *Marlborough* and Count *Tilly* at *Kirkhoven*, and Count *Lottum* with the Earl of *Orkney* between *Gavre* and *Asperon*: Major General *Cadogan* and Brigadier *Evans*, were sent before to lay the Pontons over the *Scheld*, who not only perform'd their Orders but passed the River, and posted themselves and their Detachment on the other side, and put to flight a Body of Troops which lay intrench'd near the River. Our Troops were therefore ordered to march with all imaginable Expedition, and as they passed the River they form'd themselves in Order of Battle. Prince *Eugene* hearing what had happen'd, never stay'd to lay his Pontons, but forded directly over the River and joyn'd the Duke of *Marlborough* at *Kerkhoven*; upon their Conjunction they advanc'd to *Berchem*, in order to dislodge the *French* from that Post, but Monsieur *Souteron*, who commanded there, fled away with the utmost Precipitation. The *Dutch* Cavalry pursued them, and fell into the Fire of a Party of Grenadiers, who had lin'd some Hedges and Ditches, in order to secure the Retreat of the rest. Here we lost a few Soldiers, and Major General *Baldwin* was shot thro' the Body, and the Earl of *Albemarle* and Count *Maurice* of *Nassau* had their Horses killed under them. From hence the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* went to attack the *French* Troops posted on the Hills of *Oudenard*, under the Command of Monsieur de *Hautefort*; these made just as good or a worse defence than the Detachment under Monsieur *Souteron*; but General *Lottum* met with a different aspect from the Troops commanded by Count *La Motte*: The *Prussian* General past at *Gavre*, and found the Enemy ready to receive him, but his Orders being to joyn the Duke of *Marlborough*, his Troops fil'd off towards the Camp of that General, without staying to try whether this was only an Amusement of the *French* Generals. In the several pursuits our Forces took great part of the Enemies Baggage, their Bread Waggons, several Colours, Standards and 2 or 3 pair of Kettle Drums, and killed and made Prisoners about 1000 Men. The Consequence of this Action was the raising the Siege of *Brussels*, which the Elector of *Bavaria* immediately forsook, upon having advice of our passing the *Scheld*, and retired to *Mons* with the greatest

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Mortification, cursing the Intrigues of Count *Bergeyck*, whose Correspondence in the *Spanish Flanders* had brought so many Disgraces upon the Arms of *France*. As our Troops could not but despise the *French*, so the *French* did their Generals, to whose Fear or ill Conduct they imputed the unhappy Turns of this Campaign. Upon the passing of the *Scheld*, the Populace reviv'd an old Song which had been made upon *Mareschal Luxembourg's* ill Success when he attempted to relieve *Philipsburgh*. I shall mention the first Verse of it in *English*, which by changing the River *Rhine* to that of the *Scheld*, becomes suitable to the present Occasion.

*Upon the Scheld Presaging Harms,  
And Breathing Woes and Smart,  
Appeared a Beast with many a Thousand Arms,  
But wanted Head and Heart:*

These were the Thoughts of some particular Persons, but this unexpected Turn seems rather owing to the Conduct and Foresight of our Generals, who took such effectual Measures as broke and divided the *French* Army, as may appear by part of Lieutenant General *Hompesch's* Letter to a General Officer, a Friend of his, which I shall here insert.

S I R,

I Expect this Day 100 Waggon's under a Guard of 9 Batallions, with Powder sent for from *Aeth*, by my Lord Duke, which are to joyn me. The Enemies have assembled their Forces between *Lens* and *La Bassée*, and are fortifying the latter, wherein our Troops had taken Post, and made a shew of fortifying the same, as if they would maintain themselves therein. This was intended to oblige the Enemy to detach some Troops on that side, and weaken those they had on the *Scheld*, which succeeded accordingly. That Post would have been very advantageous, but as our Generals had other things in view, they quitted the same, seeing the *French* were come into their Neighbourhood with most of their Forces, and thereby render'd our passing the *Scheld* more easy. They are now near enough to attack Prince *Eugene* before *Lille*, if they think fit; and in that Case, I shall be soon with him with the Troops under my Command. It began last Night to Freeze so very hard, that our Soldiers long for Fighting, were it only to warm themselves. If any thing material happens, I shall not fail to acquaint you therewith.

I am, &c.

At the Camp near *Menin*,  
December 5. 1708.

Sign'd,  
*R. V. Count de Hompesch.*

P. S. Forage being very scarce in these Parts, our Horses will somewhat suffer; but when Men must be Sacrific'd to obtain a safe and honourable Peace, there is no reason to complain of the share Horses must have in these Difficulties. I will however use all possible means to preserve them.

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These Sentiments of Mr. *Hompesch* give a light into the Intentions of our Generals, both in seizing and quitting the Posts of *Lens* and *La Bassée*, and discover plainly, that the *French* are not only overcome in Courage but in Policy.

Both our Generals and Soldiers had acted this Campaign with so much Prudence and Bravery, and the Successes that attended their Labours were so fortunate, that the Allies in General were satisfy'd, and which rarely happens, thought they had done enough, and fully performed the Obligations they lay under, and were content they should leave *Ghent* and *Bruges* in the Hands of the Enemy till the next Campaign gave them an opportunity of compelling them to return to their Lawful Sovereign; but the Duke of *Marlborough* was of another Mind, and upon his taking his leave of King *Augustus*, who wish'd him a good Voyage, his Grace reply'd, *That it was very cold Weather, and he could not cross the Seas without Gloves.* The Expression in *French* (the Language in which it was spoke) is very beautiful, and insinuates, that he could not return to *England* till he had taken *Ghent*. The Word *Gant* signifying a Glove in *French*, as well as a Town of that Name, to which his Grace, by that Equivocal Term, alluded. One Success generally treads upon the foot of another, the Cittadel of *Lille* surrender'd the 9th of *November*, just as our Batteries began to play against it; but not one Cannon was fired, when Marshal *Boufflers* offer'd to Capitulate, not was there any considerable loss of Men on either side.

The Cittadel of *Lille* being evacuated, my Lord Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* march'd towards *Ghent*, in order to besiege that City. Our Army invest'd it between the Upper *Scheld* and the *Lys*, with 30 Battallions and as many Squadrons. The Prince of *Hesse Cassel* with 20 Squadrons and 40 Battallions, did the like between the *Lys* and the Canal of *Bruges*, and from thence to the Canal of the *Sax*, the Duke of *Wurtemberg* with 16 Battallions and 25 Squadrons, sat down between *Mullestein* and the Lower *Scheld*, and Count *Tilly*, with 20 Squadrons and as many Battallions, took post between the Upper and the Lower *Scheld*. On the 29th of *December*, N. S. the Trenches were open'd at the Attack of Count *Lotum*. The following Night we broke Ground where the Duke of *Wurtemberg* commanded. At the same time we carried on other Works at the *Brussel's Gate*, under the Direction of Brigadier *Evans*, where the Enemy made a Sally, and that General bringing up his Men to the Charge, had the misfortune to be taken Prisoner. We lost but very few Men in the Works; and the 30th, Count *de la Motte*, who commanded the *French* Garrison Capitulated, and surrender'd the Town the next Day, having obtained to march out with 6 Pieces of Cannon, and the usual Marks of Honour. The Burghers had the good Fortune to try the Clemency of the Victors, and obtained very easy Articles for themselves, which they had but ill deserv'd.

Upon the Acquisition of this Place, the Enemy quitted *Bruges*, *Plasfendael* and *Leffinghen*, and retired into their own Territories, and the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* having settled the Winter Quarters for the Confederate Troops, set out for the *Hague*, having left the Command of our Forces to Count *Tilly*, General for the *Dutch*.

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As this Chain of Victories, with which it pleased God to bless the Allies, gave them a happy Prospect of a solid Peace, and reducing the unjust Power of *France* to reasonable Conditions, so it put the *French* into the highest Consternation. The general part of that Nation apprehended their poor Estates, Honours and precarious Liberties they enjoyed, to be now sacrificed to their Monarch's boundless Ambition. They found with justice, whilst the House of *Bourbon* grasp'd at *Spain*, that Family would lose *France*, and pay dearly for their insatiable Lust of Empire. At the same time Reports were spread Abroad, of Misunderstandings in the Royal Family of *France*, 'twas also reported that his Most Christian Majesty had a design to Marry *Madam de Maintenon*. This Rumour, whether true or false, has put the whole Nation into a Ferment, and the very same People which almost Idoliz'd *Lewis le Grand*, now Lampoon him, and Satyrize his Actions with as much Bitterness, as he could expect from his severest Enemies. One of these Satyrs, occasion'd by the Report I have just mention'd, translated into *English Verse*, containing a great deal of Wit and good Sense, I shall here oblige the Reader with, to shew what an Opinion the *French* Soldiers entertain of their King, who once bid fairly for a Universal Monarchy.

LEWIS to Marli's sneakt away,  
And from a Lover's gown a Spouse;  
What wiser Prank could Monarch play,  
To fix the Glory of his House?  
Thus an old Batter'd Soldier quits  
The Camp, when he can fight no more:  
And to some Dirty Village gets,  
And marries his old batter'd Whore.

So with the Lewd it ever fares,  
Thir Wit grows weak, as their Desires grow strong,  
They fall at last into their proper Snares,  
And pay, when Old, for what they did when Young.  
What mighty Charms has *Maintenon* unknown,  
What Spells which Mortals never felt before;  
At Twenty she'd have kist for Half a Crown,  
But takes a Lewis at Threescore.

Thus ended the Campaign in *Flanders*, and the Glory of *France* together The Wheel of Fortune is turn'd, and the *Gallick* Empire declines with as great rapidity as ever it advanc'd, and may reasonably apprehend yet greater Misfortunes from the House of *Austria*, than they receiv'd at the Battles of *Pavia* and *St. Quintin*.

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